Bringing history into accord with the facts in the tradition of Dr.Harry Elmer Barnes

THE BARNES REVIEW

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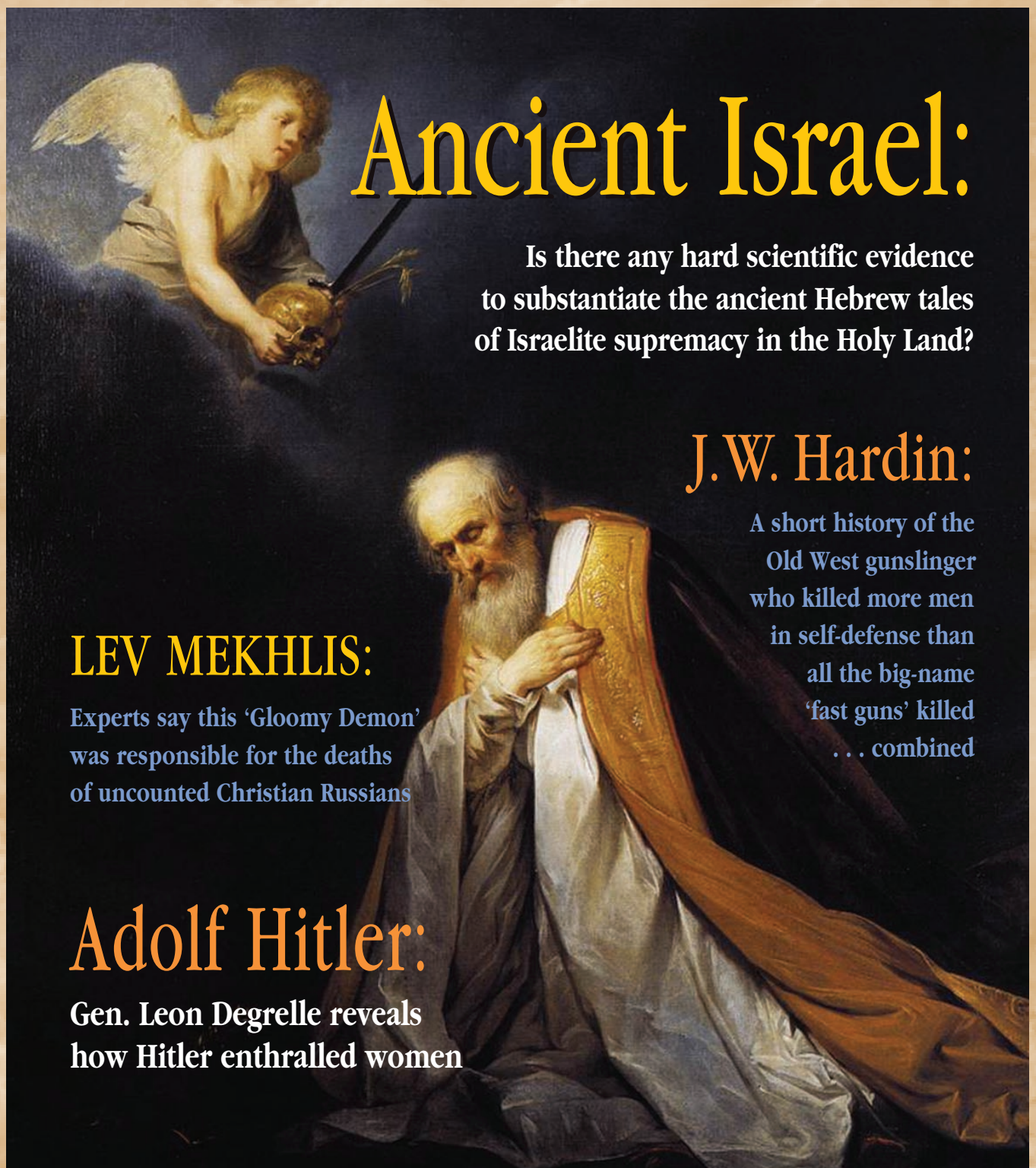

Ancient Israel:

Is there any hard scientific evidence to substantiate the ancient Hebrew tales of Israelite supremacy in the Holy Land?

J.W. Hardin:

A short history of the Old West gunslinger who killed more men in self-defense than all the big-name 'fast guns' killed . . . combined

LEV MEKHLIS:

Experts say this 'Gloomy Demon' was responsible for the deaths of uncounted Christian Russians

Adolf Hitler:

Gen. Leon Degrelle reveals how Hitler enthralled women

Bringing History Into Accord With the Facts in the Tradition of Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes

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MAY/JUNE 2007 ❖ VOLUME XIII ❖ NUMBER 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5 ANCIENT ISRAEL: MYTH VS REALITY
JOHN TIFFANY
Most Americans were brought up to believe that in ancient times, kings such as David and Solomon of Israel ruled over mighty empires. Indeed, such beliefs are one of the major pillars upon which the modern state of Israel rests. But what if Israel never was more than a petty chieftainship? What if there never was a Temple of Solomon? Or a prophet named Moses? Or an Esther? And are the supposed accomplishments of the ancient Israelites noted by any other cultures? In this issue, TBR takes a close look at the historicity of ancient Israel. . . .

19 THE ARAB HOLOCAUST TRAIN
HESHAM TILLAWI
The killing of Saddam Hussein is just another chapter in the never-ending book of Israel's genocide of the Arab peoples. The establishment tells us we must believe it was the decision of the Iraqi government to hang their former ruler on the first day of Eid, a most important Muslim holy period, although anyone who knows about Islamic culture knows it is forbidden to execute anyone on that day. This proves once again that the establishment consists of a bunch of liars, as if we did not already know that. The Palestinian author explains that Zionist plotters decided years ago, before the war(s) against Iraq, that this nation was to be destroyed and carved up into relatively powerless statelets, to be controlled by the Zionist empire. . . .

25 JOSEF STALIN'S HATCHET MAN
DANIEL W. MICHAELS
Known as "the Gloomy Demon" and the "Shark," as well as by other such nicknames, Lev Mekhlis is perhaps the most prominent of all Josef Stalin's gang of murderous goons. Like a grand inquisitor, the "Demon" went about sniffing out supposed "political enemies" of the psychopathic Red dictator so they could be tortured and snuffed out. It's not a pleasant topic, but this is authentic history that is ignored by the establishment "court historians.". . .

31 FOILING STALIN; SAVING EUROPE
DANIEL W. MICHAELS
Again TBR revisits one of the most crucial topics of 20th-century history: the little-known, long unreported fact that Josef Stalin was planning the conquest of all of Europe, and that he was only stopped in his evil scheme by the preemptive attack orchestrated by Hitler and called Operation Barbarossa. This time, we have an establishment historian breaking ranks with his fellows and confirming what we have been telling readers for years now. . . .

36 HITLER'S BARRIER AGAINST STALIN
JOAQUIN BOCHACA
Hitler did his best to save not only western Europe from Stalinistic expansionism, but also eastern and southeastern Europe. Too bad Britain and America were hornswoggled into preventing him from doing so. Millions of Europeans died or were trapped behind the Iron Curtain for decades as a result of Western perfidy and stupidity. . . .

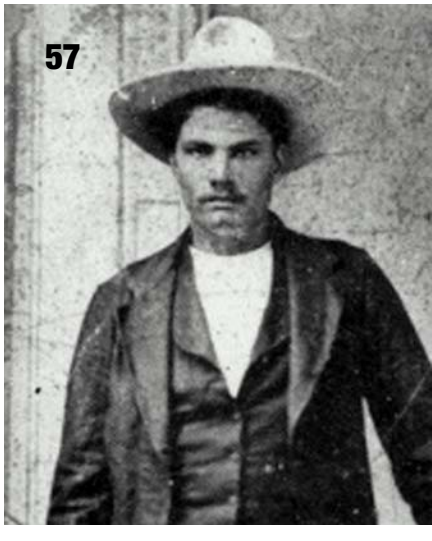
38 THE SIEGE OF BUDAPEST
GUSTAV VERES
Heroic Hungarian nationalists gave their all trying to stop the Red Army rampage through their nation's capital. Everyone knew that failure to stop "the Mongol hordes" meant wanton looting, the mass violation of Hungarian womenfolk, mass executions and, for many, forced labor with survival improbable. The savages may have won the day, but the fame of these Hungarian patriots will live forever. . . .

41 AXIS SPY SAYS TOP NAZIS ESCAPED
HARRY COOPER
Everyone knows Hitler perished in the Berlin Bunker and that Hitler's No. 2 man, Martin Bormann, died in a fire fight with Allied forces, right? Well get ready for a barnburner and one of the most controversial stories ever to appear in the pages of TBR. Several impeccable sources maintain that Martin Bormann and Adolf Hitler did not perish in Berlin but were spirited away to South America, with Hitler leaving against his will—drugged by fanatical Nazis who wanted the Reich to relocate and survive. What is the truth on this subject? . . .

47 POLITICALLY INCORRECT MONUMENT
JOHN NUGENT
One proud veteran of the Waffen-SS has seen fit to set up a veritable shrine dedicated not only to the U.S. Constitution and the Founding Fathers, but also "the hero of World War II." What makes this "Hitler Memorial," as friends and critics alike call it, so unique is that it is located in the most American location you could imagine, a small town in Wisconsin. Needless to say, Theodor Jünker has taken some heat from the likes of *Time* and *Newsweek*, who have implied this courageous WWII veteran is a war criminal simply because he wore the uniform of the Waffen-SS. What could motivate a man to withstand heaps of abuse from such well-funded mainstream publishers? . . .

51 HITLER—THE LADIES' MAN?
GEN. LEON DEGRELLE
One Romanian princess claimed that when she met Hitler, sparks flew from his fingertips and she felt a discernible "shock." But she said it wasn't a pleasant experience. Surprisingly though, Hitler—painfully shy around the fairer sex—enthralled thousands of women across the globe. Some, after learning Hitler was already married to his nation, were driven to the point of suicide out of unrequited love for this unlikely lady's man. . . .

57 HARDIN: FUGITIVE FROM INJUSTICE
GARY LEE YARBROUGH
You always hear about such famous "Wild and Wooly West" shootists as Wyatt Earp and so on, but except locally the most illustrious gunfighter the West ever knew gets very little mention—until now, in TBR. His name is John Wesley Hardin, and unlike the others, he did not go about shooting unarmed men. Instead, Hardin was willing to take on groups of men all armed with rifle and pistol all by himself—and still emerge victorious.



Features:

Personal from the Editor: 2.
Editorial—No more wars for Israel: 3.
Philosophers and ancient Israel: 10.
Esther's Purim massacre: 13.
Joshua's Walls: 17.
History You May Have Missed: 23.
Commentary: Wrong color victims: 61.
Letters to the Editor: 62-63.

PERSONAL FROM THE EDITOR

WE ARE TOLD AGAIN AND AGAIN that there are two reasons why the state of Israel has a right to exist. The first reason is because of the holocaust, an event imaginative hucksters—who have raked in trillions of dollars over the past several decades from various European nations and the United States—say resulted in the planned extermination of 6 million Jews. This is the "guilt" reason why "we" owe "them" Israel. The argument goes something like this: "Since you (the Western Christian powers) allowed 6 million of us to be gassed, you owe us something big in return. We want some real estate. The Holy Land. We don't care who is on the land now. We deserve it because our people suffered so in the holocaust, something you could have prevented had you sacrificed a million more men."

The second reason why Zionists—Jewish and Christian—fanatically shout that Israel has a right to exist is really a property rights issue, ownership establishing legitimacy. It goes like this: Ancient tales say the land upon which Israel sits is "theirs." (By "theirs," we mean the descendants of the ancient Israelite kingdoms of David and Solomon, when Israelite culture supposedly reached its zenith. Forget the fact that a large percentage of Jews in Israel are in no way Semitic, but "steppe-cousins" of the ancient Khazarians.) So stories of God granting Israelite supremacy in the Holy Land in olden times prove the land belongs to the Jews. (Watch out if you buy that one, as it means American Indians could lay claim to almost any city in America.)

Guilt and legitimacy: these are the pillars upon which the troublemaking political state of Israel exists. Without these supports, this Israeli house of cards crumbles.

As TBR readers, you already question the totality of the holocaust tale. We've presented enough information in the pages of this magazine to knock that pillar down.

And after reading Asst. Editor John Tiffany's lead article, which details the complete lack of any evidence to support the Old Testament tales of Moses, Joshua and other great Hebrew leaders, we think you'll agree that pillar number two is teetering.

However, if we are to believe the Old Testament, then the ancient Israelites were fond of holocausting their neighbors. The unending slaughter of the Palestinians (Philistines) today shows that, at the very least, these Old Testament tales capture the spirit of modern-day Israelites. Read Palestinian-American Hesham Tillawi's commentary on "the Arab Holocaust Train" on page 19. Also see the editorial from Willis A. Carto on page 3 on a planned holocaust—a modern-day Purim—of tens of thousands of Persians. Will they use American troops and materiel as their righteous sword?

We also have an article by Russian translator and historian Dan Michaels on Lev Mekhlis, one of Stalin's henchmen who was responsible for killing tens of thousands of Christian Russians, but whose name is little known today. See page 25 for the story of this overly willing executioner. Also see our series of articles about the battle between Hitler and Stalin for the future of Europe, including one by renowned Spanish Revisionist Joaquin Bochaca and another by son of Hungary Gustav Veres on the brave defense of Budapest by a combined force of Hungarians and Waffen-SS troops. Their delay of the Soviets at Budapest helped other nations prepare a quick defense against the onslaught of the Mongolian juggernaut, perhaps saving Europe.

We also offer the comments of Harry Cooper, a well-respected WWII historian, who says he knows how and why Adolf Hitler and Martin Bormann escaped (kidnapped in Hitler's case) from the Berlin Fuehrerbunker. See page 41.

I'd also like you to check out a short piece on the efforts of a former Waffen-SS veteran—in Wisconsin—to keep a museum dedicated to his fallen comrades open to the public. The report on Herr Jünker's museum starts on page 47.

And we also have a great article on one of the most daring gunfighters of all time, John Wesley Hardin. Hardin's story is an American tragedy, and one that deserves to be immortalized on the big screen. See page 57. ❖

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IF BUSH BUCKLES, ISRAEL GETS HER WAR

The minions of Israel are beating the drums of its American media for yet another war—to be kicked off by a U.S. air attack on Iran, perhaps with "tactical" nuclear bombs. They've got us bogged down in an unwinnable mess in what used to be the sovereign nation of Iraq, but that's not enough.

Now they want an even bigger war with Iran.

No matter that we cannot win such a war. America's record is not very good recently about winning wars.

We scuttled out of Vietnam, our tail between our legs, and now the Viet Cong is in firm control. That misadventure cost approximately 58,000 American lives and more than 211,000 casualties—many of them today gobs of once-human flesh stashed away out of sight in dirty veterans hospitals.

Remember Iraq? Bush, Cheney and an army of Israeli cheerleaders assured us that Saddam was a maniacal aggressor, just waiting to pounce on innocent us from 10,000 miles away.

All they told us were lies—lies invented by the Israeli lobby for the sole purpose of getting us into an impossible situation.

An impossible situation for America. But not for Israel. Our expenditure in blood and treasure to destroy Iraq was a total loser for us but conveniently knocked out a potential obstacle to Israel's plan to take over the entire Mideast. Now, it's Iran's turn for this treatment.

Tragically, we are in a situation where war has become a normal condition. Call it perpetual war for perpetual peace. Revisionist historian Harry Elmer Barnes—the namesake of this magazine—coined that phrase 60 years ago.

Even worse, this once-great and once-sovereign nation is literally—and without exaggeration—an Israeli satellite.

How did this happen? Not by accident. It is the result of a carefully calculated plan; a plan manipulated at many levels.

AIPAC—the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee—is registered as a lobby. But AIPAC is a very minor factor in the influence that Israel can bring to bear. The huge, unregistered Israeli lobby inside America makes AIPAC insignificant.

There are organizations such as the well-known Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee which are not registered as lobbies and agents of a foreign nation, but are.

But more important still is a network which can tie almost every Jew in America into a grand organization ever alert for ways to influence opinion, churches, schools, media and Congress. This unofficial organization is directed by the Mossad, Israel's international espionage and secret activist organization.

The facts about this network have been revealed for years, primarily by a onetime Mossad agent, Victor Ostrovsky. Ostrovsky points out that the Mossad has literally millions of unpaid helpers in America. They are called sayans, and are Jews who can be called upon by the Mossad to help in any task that it has undertaken, whether it is to boycott a business which is run by an owner considered unfriendly to Israel or to support a candidate for office or bombard Congress with telephone calls and letters in behalf of legislation deemed helpful to Israel. Ostrovsky has performed a major service to humanity by courageously leaving the Mossad and then writing *By Way of Deception.*

The motto of the Mossad, by the way, is "By way of deception, thou shalt do war."

No elected officials will speak out about this abnormal travesty. If they did, they would be immediately attacked by the media, for all of the media—with the exception of a few struggling outlets such as this one—are controlled by Zionists.

One of Israel's major sources of support is Christian Zionism, led by Israel-firsters such as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, D. James Kennedy, John Hagee and others. With greased access to television, these tinhorns fleece their flocks for hundreds of millions of dollars each year, preaching that the artificial state named "Israel" is the literal reincarnation of ancient Israel, etc etc. They never mention that American taxpayers have supplied Israel with $1.6 trillion.

Most of the people of America go along with their Jewish leaders and are oblivious to these facts. But people in other countries surely are not. Our country's prestige around the world is zero. As Zionist puppet George Bush tries to throw around his weight, he is a laughingstock around the world. It doesn't help that he is an intellectual lightweight.

Add to the above the fact that the Rothschild empire quietly owns and controls more property in America than even the Rockefellers and it is clear why American banks and business are not going to try and counter Jewish influence but, on the contrary, will follow the lead of Jewish money.

It is axiomatic that a country that is led by agents of another country has entered upon a downward course and unless it recovers its senses cannot survive.

Considering the above, if Israel commands Bush to attack Iran, regardless that this would not only be a disaster for the U.S. but would almost certainly cause unwelcome international blowback repercussions impossible to foresee, he will do so no matter the opposition from American citizens. (Written March 26, 2007.)

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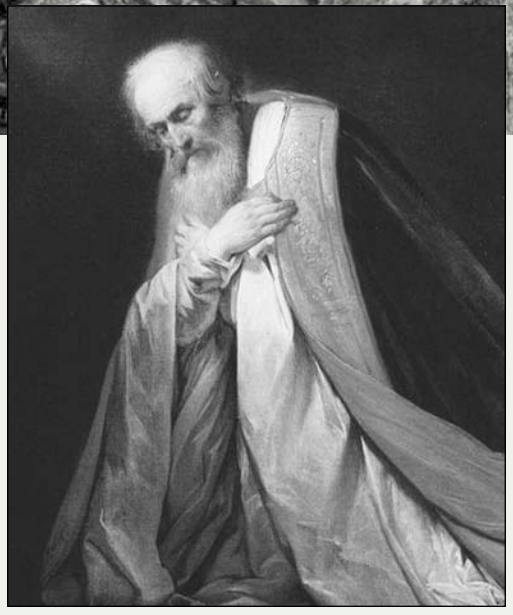


Evidence for the fabled King Solomon of Israel is nonexistent. Biblical historians Thomas L. Thompson and Niels Peter Lemche of the University of Copenhagen and Philip Davies of the University of Sheffield argue that David and Solomon, and indeed the entire biblical description of the history of Israel, are nothing more than ideological constructs produced by priestly circles in Jerusalem in post-exilic times. Nineteenth- and early 20th-century excavations around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem failed to identify even a trace of Solomon's legendary temple or palace complex. The king called Solomon is most likely based upon the Assyrian god Shulmanu-Ashared. "Shulmanu" translates as "foremost one." Shown above is a Peter Paul Rubens painting of the fabled meeting between Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, yet another gal who supposedly fell for Solomon. (He was reputed to have had approximately 700 wives and 300 concubines, according to the Old Testament.) At right, "King" David is shown in prayer in a section of a painting created in the 1630s, now housed in a Utrecht museum. David was probably more of a tribal chieftain than a great king. More can be seen of this scene on TBR's front cover.

Fables of Ancient Israel Now Being Dissected

Researchers are weighing the accuracy of the reigns of King Solomon and King David against archeological and scientific data just recently discovered. These scholars are coming up with some very interesting conclusions.

MANY CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS, such as noted author Thomas L. Thompson, think the history of Palestine and its peoples is very different from Old Testament narratives, regardless of political claims. A history of the region during the Iron I and Iron II periods leaves little room for any historicity in the accounts of the books of Samuel and Kings, critics say. The major media seldom mention the scholarly Christian critiques of the ancient legends for fear they they will come under attack from those who believe the facts undermine Israel's very legitimacy.

BY JOHN TIFFANY

Be ready for a major upsetting of the apple cart. Unknown to almost all laymen, a huge number of scholars have quietly come together agreeing on a historical fact that will overturn the entirety of "court history" when all the facts they have gathered become widely known.

They agree that the various tales of "ancient Israel" are largely fictional. Based upon the known facts of geography, history, archeology and even biblical scholarship, many of them argue there was no such entity as "ancient Israel"—that it never existed. Is it possible that ancient Israel is a hoax?

If a hoax it is, then clearly "ancient Israel" is the most profitable hoax in history, with the possible exception of its twin fairy tale, the "court historian" view of what happened to the Jews of Europe during World War II (it is claimed that there was a systematic policy of exterminating them by the German government; among the specific claims are that 6 million Jews were gassed to death; however, there is no evidence of any of this).

In spite of the sensational nature of these findings about "ancient Israel," they are, so far, all but totally unknown to the general public, including even history buffs. Colleges have been reluctant to teach the facts, and many Christian pastors stay away from these truths as if they would be cursed by God, Himself.

There was a time, not so long ago, when one simply did not question the Old Testament. If the Old Testament said something had happened at some time in the past, then it happened, and that was that, regardless of whether there was any other evidence for the event outside of it's pages. No one even considered that it might be fictional. Today that is no longer the case.

William G. Dever, in his very interesting and extremely important book, *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?*,[1] answers questions like "Did the House of David really exist?" and "Is King Solomon a fantasy?" Dever was formerly the head of the University of Arizona's Near Eastern studies department.

Most modern scholars consider the Davidic dynasty and especially the Exodus story to be entirely fictitious.

There are many new things under the Sun, despite the biblical statement to the contrary, and in recent decades a great controversy has developed among the clerisy, although little has (until now) been heard about it by the masses: To what extent may the Old Testament, or parts of it, be considered an accurate historical document?

Perhaps the Old Testament can answer that question itself:

> Thus saith the Lord: . . . Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing.[2]

To be a true and honest scientist, one must be open to paradigm shifts, and, similarly, to be a true historian, a historiologist, is to be a Revisionist. To realize that what we once believed—although it seemed to make sense to us at the time—is not what we should continue to believe is the essential intellectual process by which wisdom grows. This is notoriously difficult for older, established scientists and historians who find themselves challenged to repudiate their whole life's work, so that for a new viewpoint to become dominant sometimes requires us to wait for the older scientists and historians to die off, as with the Copernican Revolution.[3]

Just as Copernicus overthrew the old understanding that the Sun goes around the Earth, and changed the Sun to the center of the universe (and now it is not even that, but a minor star in an average galaxy, in a vast universe that has no center),[4] so, with increasing knowledge of geography, was Jerusalem (appropriately enough, considering the gravamen of this article) dethroned from being the center of the world, as depicted in the *Mappa Mundi* in the Hereford (England) Cathedral, to a town in the backwaters of civilization.[5] Jerusalem is no longer the center of anything, either in geography or in history, except, of course, in the minds of Jews.

"Jews are not the same thing as Judahites, who are not the same as Israelites, who must be distinguished from Hebrews—and Israelis are something else altogether."

AMERIGO VESPUCCI

For centuries, Western scholars generally assumed that Old Testament "events" such as the exile from the Palestine/Canaan of the Israelites and their return thereto actually occurred. The ancient history of Palestine, it was taken for granted, could be written by merely paraphrasing or (where necessary to avoid conflict with known facts) correcting the stories of the Bible. However, this began to change as early as the beginning of the 16th century, with the publication of Amerigo Vespucci's *Mundus Novus* letter. According to Vespucci, in his explorations of the New World, there were found diverse pumas, panthers and wildcats, so many wolves, red deer, monkeys and felines, marmosets of many kinds and many large snakes. There was, in fact, so much wildlife that he concluded "so many species could not have entered Noah's ark."

On the other hand, there is the case of James Ussher (1581-1656), Anglican archbishop of Armagh, primate of all Ireland and vice chancellor of Trinity College in Dublin, who was highly regarded in his day as a churchman and as a scholar. Of his many works, his treatise on chronology has proved the most durable but perhaps also the most ill fated. Based on an intricate correlation of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean histories and holy writ, it was incorporated into an authorized version of the Bible printed in 1701, and thus came to be regarded with almost as much unquestioning reverence as the Bible itself. Having established the first day of creation as Sunday, October 23, 4004 B.C., Ussher calculated the dates of other biblical events, concluding for example, that Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden on Monday, November 10, 4004 B.C., and that Noah's ark made landfall on Mount Ararat on May 5, 1491 B.C., on a Wednesday.

In his work, Dr. John Lightfoot (1602-1675), vice chancellor of Cambridge University, a contemporary of Ussher and one of the most eminent scholars of his time in the field of the Hebrew language, declared, as the result of his study of the Scriptures, that "heaven and earth, center and circumference, were created all together, in the same instant, and clouds full of water," and that "this work took place, and man was created by the Trinity, on October 23, 4004 B.C., at 9:00 in the morning." That would be Greenwich time; the time at the Garden of Eden would have been midnight. Lightfoot published his calculations in 1644, before Ussher's were completed. It is interesting that the two scholars, acting independently, calculated the same date for the Creation, although Ussher did not give the time of day for the event. This may have something to do with the fact that both results compare, roughly, to the Jewish calendar's date for the very beginning of time, which, rendered into our terms, would be approximately 3760 B.C.

As the sciences of geology and astrophysics and allied studies began to come into existence, with their intervals of millions and even billions of years (numbers that people in Bible times probably could not have conceived of), such chronologies as those of Ussher and Lightfoot impeded progress. Today, however, Lightfoot and Ussher have become laughingstocks as it is generally accepted that the Earth is at least 5 billion years old, and the known universe perhaps four times as old as the Earth.[6] (A few scientists such as maverick astronomer Tom Van Flandern[7] even

Many discrepancies turn up when historians look into the book of Joshua and the book of Judges. The Canaanites (Palestinians) whom Joshua (supposedly an invader) and his band of "Israelites" supposedly exterminated were alive and well to fight again. Joshua 10:12 mentions how the pagan tribal war god of the proto-Jews "gave the Amorites over" to the invaders. But in Joshua 13:2 and 4, later in the chronology, we find they are unconquered. There were no such conquests, but Zionists use the Old Testament to justify their claim for the "right" of Jews to establish the state of Israel, a nation of the Jews, by the Jews and for the Jews. This is why they are still at war to this day. Above is a Nicola Poussin (1625) painting depicting Joshua defeating the Amorites. Little evidence exists to authenticate this "great" battle.

maintain that the universe may be infinitely old.) Such phenomena as the Garden of Eden and Noah's Flood cannot be taken literally from the Old Testament by modern scientists. Gradually the historicity of events farther removed from "Creation" increasingly came into question as well. Unfortunately, many people today, known as biblical inerrantists, refuse to consider the evidence, both internal to the Old Testament and external to it, showing that ancient tales of the "Jews" are not history.

Criticism of "the Old Testament as history" has quite a history itself. Benedict de Spinoza, a Jew who lived in Amsterdam, wrote a revolutionary book on the Bible, *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus (Theological-Political Thesis,* or *TTP* hereinafter), which appeared in 1670 in Latin, and within eight years it was translated into French. Although it was banned for its shocking criticism of the Old Testament, somehow everyone who was anyone had a copy. *TTP* forced a serious debate about the trustworthiness of the Bible as history and about the importance of the so-called "ancient Jews."

* * *

Actually there is no such thing as ancient Jews. Jews, furthermore, are not the same thing as Judahites, who are not the same as Israelites, who must be distinguished from Hebrews—and Israelis are something else altogether. The confusion of these terms works greatly to the advantage of the movement for political Zionism and is understood by all open-minded scholars.[8]

This was a formidable onslaught upon the inspired inerrancy of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament, or, more accurately, the Hexateuch, since Joshua seems to show the same hands that wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). It called

attention to scores of what H.L. Mencken called "transparent imbecilities" in the five books, and especially in Genesis, including a dozen or more palpable geographical and historical impossibilities. The answer of the constituted authorities was to suppress the *Tractatus,* but enough copies got out to reach the proper persons, and ever since then the Old Testament has been under searching and devastating examination. The first conspicuous contributor to that work was a French priest, Richard Simon, but since then the Germans have had more to do with it than any other people, and so it is common for American Christians to think of the so-called Higher Criticism as a German invention, and to lay a good deal of the blame for it upon [Adolf] Hitler and the Kaiser.[9]

Spinoza asserts, as his general conclusion about scriptural reports of miraculous events in history, that everything that is truly narrated in scripture to have happened necessarily happened, as all things do, according to the laws of nature. And if anything can be found which can be conclusively demonstrated to be contrary to the laws of nature, or not to have been able to follow from them, it should simply be believed that it has been added to the sacred texts by sacrilegious men.[10]

Tractatus the first book to analyze the Bible systematically as if it were an ancient secular text in Latin or Greek or any ancient tongue. Spinoza dethroned the Hebrews and Israelites as the bearers of a unique, divinely inspired truth. There could be no doubt, for Spinoza, that any valid historiology had to deny utterly the centrality of what might be called "the biblical experience."

The Quakers are said to have dismissed the Old Testament as a "dead letter."

AMERICA'S GODFATHER

Thomas Paine, who has been called the "Godfather of America," further laid the groundwork for biblical historical criticism. He wrote, in his influential 1795 book *The Age of Reason:*

> It is not the antiquity of a tale that is an evidence of its truth; on the contrary, it is a symptom of its being fabulous; for the more ancient any history pretends to be, the more it has the resemblance of a fable. The origin of every nation is buried in fabulous tradition, and that of the Jews is as much to be suspected as any other."[11] (*Essai sur les moeurs et l'esprit des nations et sur les principaux faits de l'histoire depuis Charlemagne jusqu'â Louis XIII* (Geneva, 1756, known in English as *The Essay on Morals*)

People began to wonder: Is the Old Testament, then, merely an antique fable?

These matters were discussed on all sides, and even the apologists of orthodoxy, if they hoped to be taken seriously, had to use the tools of historical and philological learning.

In the second half of the 19th century, a school of biblical criticism developed in Germany, of which Julian Wellhausen was a leading figure. It challenged the historicity[12] of the Old Testament stories and claimed that biblical historiography was formulated, and in large measure actually invented, during the Babylonian exile. These Bible scholars, the Germans in particular, claimed that the history of the Hebrews, as a series of events beginning with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and proceeding through the exile to Egypt, the enslavement there and the exodus, and ending with the conquest of the land of Canaan and the settlement of the tribes of Israel, was no more than a later reconstruction of events that had never actually happened, and was written with a theological purpose.

"It was Julian Wellhausen who challenged the historicity of the Bible stories and claimed that biblical historiography was formulated, and in large measure invented, during the Babylonian exile."

Additional fuel was added to the fire with the publication in 1897 of *The Myths of Israel: The Ancient Book of Genesis with Analysis and Explanation of Its Composition,* by Amos Kidder Fiske (Macmillan Co., New York). Fiske detailed how different and incompatible versions of various events were cobbled together rather clumsily by whoever compiled the Old Testament, as for example the Elohist and Yahwist versions of the Deluge, resulting in contradictions that would be intolerable in any book purporting to set forth an accurate chronology.[13]

Perhaps there are contradictions in other ancient documents such as the *Iliad* or the *Epic of Gilgamesh,* as well, but if so, only a handful of scholars would know about it, or care, since the *Iliad* does not purport to be history, nor, while important, does it enjoy quite the central importance in our culture that the Bible does.

H.L. Mencken's *Treatise on the Gods* was first published in 1930. (A second edition, in 1946, changed little of interest here.) Mencken pointed out that "[W]e have [the Flood myth] from the Jews, who got it from the Babylonians, who got it from the Sumerians." He saw in the Flood business the origin of religion, with the world's first priest being a sort of caveman who boldly attacked the rising waters of a flood with his club or spear. When the waters coincidentally receded, the hypothetical shaman was an instant celebrity within his tribe or band. Mencken wrote that: "The Old Testament, as history, is on a much

lower level" than Parson Weems's *Life of Washington* or *Uncle Tom's Cabin.*

MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHY

In 1987, *The Bible: Modern Critical Views* was published, a representative selection of biblical literary criticism, edited by Harold Bloom (Chelsea House Publishers, New York and Philadelphia). Robert Alter, writing therein ("Sacred History and the Beginnings of Prose Fiction"), described the Old Testament as "sacred history." Alter suggested that the biblical narratives should best be regarded as historicized prose fiction. He wrote:

> The case of the Bible's sacred history, however, is rather different from that of modern historiography. There is, to begin with, a whole spectrum of relations to history in the sundry biblical narratives, as I shall try to indicate later, but none of these involves the sense of being bound to documentable facts that characterizes history in [its] modern acceptation.[14]

Other than in the Bible, there is no historical evidence for the greatest "Jewish" leader of all time, Moses (above). There are no inscriptions on stone, bone, bronze, clay tablets or papyri, nor any mention in place names nor in traditional local legends. Most scholars agree the exodus, the plagues of Egypt and the Moses stories are all mythical. If events like the ones the Bible describes in Exodus, for instance, happened, they would be mentioned in the detailed records of ancient Egypt, especially if most of the Egyptian army drowned. And while some pharoahs were fond of inventing their own history, most of what you see in Egyptian history texts has been verified.

Today the climate of thought has shifted still further in Thompson's direction, so that there is a whole cluster of scholars who propose that the Old Testament does not provide us with adequate evidence to construct a history of early Israel. The Old Testament, these scholars are convinced, belongs in the same category as other ancient myths and literature such as the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey.* Still, there must be some historical truth in the Old Testament, because some of the things written about therein have been confirmed by archeologists, just as Heinrich Schliemann seemingly confirmed the ancient Homeric writings by discovering what seemed to be the lost city of Troy, once thought by many scholars to be "nothing more than a myth." (See TBR January/February 2007 for an alternative setting for Homer's sagas.)

This, and other cases like it, indicate that, sometimes at any rate, myths can be an effective way of preserving bona fide ancient knowledge and wisdom.[15]

On the other hand, ancient tales such as the saga of Odysseus and his encounter with the Cyclops certainly cannot be taken to imply the historical or prehistoric existence of a race of one-eyed giant humanoids. (It is possible the tall tale, no joke intended, was inspired by someone having found the fossil skull of a mastodon; the centrally located nasal opening could easily have been misinterpreted to be an eye socket.) Similarly, we cannot, as historians, prove from the Old Testament that some of its characters, such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, actually existed, any more than some of the characters in the dramatic and romantic Shakespeare plays existed.[16]

Whereas internal contradictions within the Old Testament may suggest that some of these individuals and events are partly or entirely fictional, for the proof of their historicity we must look to other sources, both in the form of extrabiblical ancient documents and the evidence of archeology.

Of course, by now we should all understand that many an ancient myth contains valuable nuggets of fact, if we can somehow separate the wheat from the chaff. But certainly this is not to say that myth is history. The question is, how much of what resembles history (or perhaps we should say a chronicle) in the Old Testament corresponds with actual events that occurred in the region?

The cardinal rule of historiology is the balanced search for truth, and one does not find this in a partisan document such as the Old Testament. It does not take a great scholar to realize that the Torah is essentially a panegyric "mythic history" of the Israelites, a people now long extinct but claimed (with little actual justification) as their ancestors by the modern Jews. It is what is known in German as *Heilsgeschichte,* or a holy and theological pious fiction, but not true historiography. Historiology is an exacting discipline, essentially a science, and immensely different in its aims and methods from those of fiction or theology. In historiology and historionomy, as in other sciences, we cannot say, as Tertullian, the ancient church father, is usually quoted (or actually misquoted), *"Credo qui absurdum,"* or, more properly, *"Credible est, quia ineptum est"*—"I believe it because it is impossible to believe."[17]

French Philosophers Weigh in on King David And Related Questions

THE EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL French Christian philosopher and critic Pierre Bayle (1647-1706) was an opponent of the atheism that he found in Baruch (Benedict de) Spinoza's writings. But he pointed out, in the famous article on King David in his *Dictionnaire historique et critique* (five vols., Paris, 1697; known in English as the *Philosophic Dictionary),* many inconsistencies in the Old Testament accounts, such as Saul's not knowing David when he came to camp during the battle with the Philistines, even though this story is told in the Bible after a passage that describes David playing the harp for Saul.

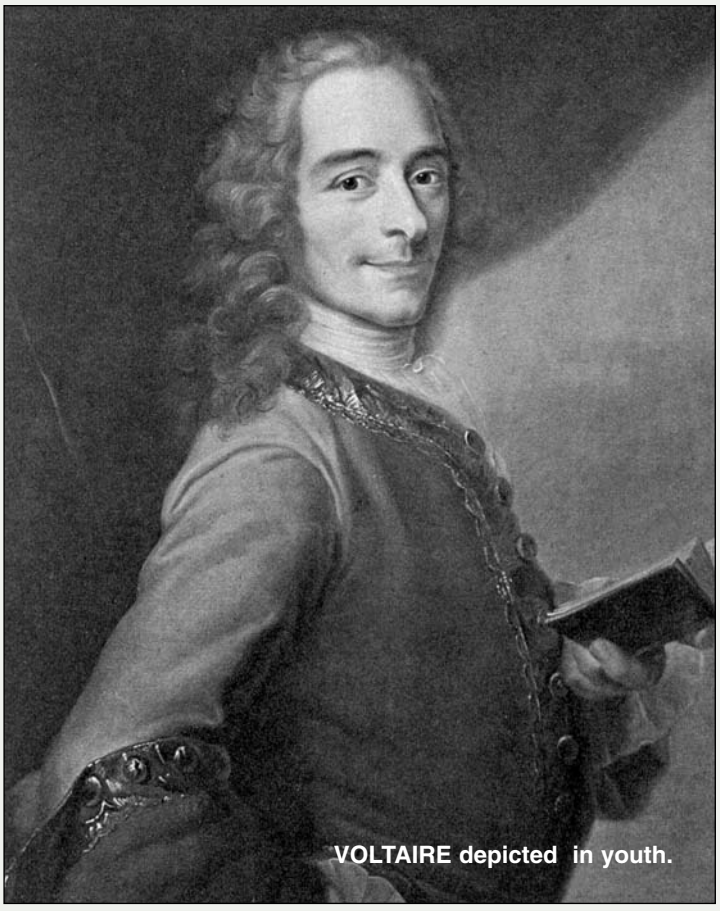
Voltaire (born Francois Marie Arouet on November 21, 1694) wrote a piece about the history of the world, a topic that had been attempted by many other authors, most of whom went to the Old Testament as their first reference. Thus, "the Jews" (meaning Hebrews and Israelites) were always given a prominent place in world history. But Voltaire, in his *Philosophy of History,* minimizes their part, giving credit for the first Western civilization instead to the Chaldeans. He does mention the Jews, but only to represent them as latecomers to civilization, whose records could not possibly be as accurate as many had represented them to be.

Particularly interesting is his tally, made from the Old Testament, that tells exactly how many "Jews" were killed by God Himself in His wrath or in civil wars. It came to 239,650—a remarkable number when you consider that only 600 years before, the total number of "Jews" had amounted to one: Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abram (later known as Abraham).

More recent scholars have doubted whether Abram/Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ever walked the earth and have suggested that they were made up as folk heroes out of the whole cloth, like the American "Pecos Bill," centuries after they were supposed to have lived.

Voltaire attacked sections of the Old Testament for their obvious absurdities. Thus:

> It is to no purpose that a host of learned men find it surprising that the king of Egypt should have ordered two midwives to put to death all the male children of the Hebrews; or that the king's daughter, who lived at Memphis, should have gone to bathe far from Memphis, in a branch of the Nile, where no one ever bathes because of the crocodiles.[1]
>
> It is to no purpose that they cavil at the age of 80 which Moses had already attained before undertaking to lead a whole people out of slavery. . . . They wonder how pharaoh could have pursued the Jews with a large body of cavalry, when all his horses had died in the fifth, sixth, seventh and 10th plagues. They wonder why 600,000 warriors took to flight with God in the lead, and having the advantage that all the firstborn of the Egyptians had been struck dead.
>
> They again wonder why God did not give the fertile land of Egypt to his chosen people, instead of making them wander for 40 years in a horrible desert. There is only one answer to these and other countless objections, and that is: God willed it . . . and we ought to believe it. . . .
>
> This catalogue of errors and frauds has been carried quite far enough. A hundred might be repeated, so constantly has the world been composed of deceivers and of people fond of being deceived.



VOLTAIRE depicted in youth.

Voltaire died in Paris in 1778, an unrecanting heretic, although he did manage to trick the church into giving him a decent burial—something that, at the time, was denied to non-Christians. ❖

ENDNOTE:

[1]Many authors have pointed out that the legend of the baby Moses being launched upon a river in a basket made of rushes is remarkably similar to, and probably plagiarized from, the myth of the infant Sargon, who was born of a lowly mother in Azupiranu, his father being unknown, and was rescued from the Euphrates in a reed basket and rose to become king of Akkad or Agade (reigned 2334-2279 B.C.). Many other Old Testament passages appear to have been similarly borrowed from older writings of various polytheistic peoples.

H.L. Mencken's **Treatise on the Gods**

This is Mencken at his most ferocious. Those who are unfamiliar with Mencken's work will do well to start here as *Treatise on the Gods* is generally regarded as his finest book; a combination of the scholarly Mencken and the acerbic iconoclast for which he was best known. It is an objective and dispassionate examination of religion, one which neither argues for or against it but studies it. The book is divided into five sections. In the first Mencken delves into the earliest pre-history when human consciousness first became distinguishable from that of the animals. In this terrifying world of bewildering things, humans devised religion as a means to explain and cope. In other parts of the book, Mencken discusses the world's major religions including a section on the Old and New Testaments and an analysis of where religion stands in the modern era. Softcover, #229, 319 pages, **$18** minus 10% for TBR subscribers. From TBR Book Club, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003. Add $3 S&H in U.S. Call **1-877-773-9077** to charge to Visa or MasterCard.

SORDID ASPECTS

While it is true that the Old Testament reflects many sordid aspects of the lives of its characters, which is surprising in a work allegedly intended to glorify these "founding fathers of the faith" (such as the incident in which King David engineers the death of Uriah so that he can gain access to Uriah's wife), it is clear that as these tales began to be recorded, the Israelites began to produce an ethnic myth explaining and glorifying their origins, their superiority and justifying their special claim to the land of Canaan/Palestine, of which they had, by one means or another, taken possession, and to exalt themselves above all other peoples and their gods above all other deities. For example, while the Israelite scribes acknowledged the common descent of the "Ishmaelites," as they called the Arabs, from their great ancestor Abraham, they relegated them to an inferior relation with the story of the Egyptian handmaid and her son. Similarly with the Midianites, Edomites and the especially hated Moabites and Ammonites, who were placed on another line.

There is little reason to believe that the "David" of the Bible is really one person. He may be derived from two or three different Davids of actual history or prehistory, who became conflated in the evolution of the legends that eventually gave rise to the Old Testament. For example, consider the David who supposedly slew Goliath: Many academicians have noted the similarities between the famous ancient Egyptian folktale *The Autobiography of Sinuhe* and the biblical account of David and Goliath. There is no reason to suppose that this little Egyptian grew up to be a king of Israel.

THE LAND OF CANAAN

Noah, of course, conveniently, is made to say, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be unto his brethren," making it supposedly legitimate for the Israelites to help themselves to the land of Canaan, robbing and murdering the inhabitants. Then there is the curse of Ham, the curse of Cain, and so on, so that in their own stories, only the Israelite people are blessed.

Just as with the Koran, which is now being questioned in regard to its historicity by Revisionists such as Ibn Warraq,[18] Paul Fregosi[19] and others, a number of scholars are now coming forth to analyze, in a critical light, the historical aspects of the Old Testament. Most scholars are not claiming that ancient Israel did not exist at all (just as the Islamic Revisionists do not dispute that some such person as the Koran's Mohammed existed). But rather the question is whether it was a great empire, as the Old Testament indicates, and whether such biblical individuals as Abraham or Moses, for example, ever existed in real life.

Could the so-called empire of Israel actually be a disguised version of the Egyptian empire, as Revisionist Ahmed Osman reasons? Could the Emperor David actually be an Egyptian pharaoh, who became confused with an Israelite chieftain who also was called David?

Ancient Egyptian documents do not appear to reference Moses—unless he was actually Ahmose I, founder of the 18th dynasty, as Revisionist Ralph Ellis believes (you will note the similarity of "Ahmose" to "Moses"). Nor are there any indications that an Exodus ever took place, unless it is a distorted interpretation of the expulsion of the Hyksos people.[20]

Since the event describes the departure of a work force of thousands and details the devastation of Egypt by a series of plagues, such an omission by the Egyptians is extraordinary, if such an event actually occurred.

Keith W. Whitelam,[21] George Mendenhall, Niels Peter Lemche,[22] Philip R. Davies,[23] the "Copenhagen school," and even some distinguished Jews such as Israel Finkelstein (professor and chairman of the archeology department at Tel Aviv University),[24] and leading Israeli archeologist Ze'ev Herzog have come to very similar conclusions.

Whitelam's excellent book, *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History* (Routledge, London and New York, 1996) has a 14-page bibliography, indicative of the seriousness of the scholarship that went into his groundbreaking study, which argues that "ancient Israel" was an invention of the court historians, in the image of a European state. "Ancient Israel" as it is generally understood, never existed, and this fiction has pre-

vented a proper understanding of the history of Palestine, he argues. Whitelam is a professor of religious studies and head of department at the University of Stirling in Britain.

Among other things, the Revisionist "Bible minimalists" claim to have determined that: The acts of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) are legendary, and the Israelites did not sojourn in Egypt nor make an "exodus," nor did they conquer the land of Palestine or Canaan (western Palestine).

Moses, as such, probably did not exist historically but is a legendary individual derived from a blend of various polytheistic sources and real personages such as Sargon of Akkad and Pharaoh Akhenaten of Egypt, in much the same way that the legendary British "Robin Hood" arose as a composite of various imaginary gods and of various people who really lived at one time or another in the dim past. It is very interesting folklore, and does have some basis in truth, but does not qualify as accurate history by any means.

Neither is there any mention, outside of the Bible, of the glorious empire of David and Solomon, other than, at most, as a small tribal kingdom or chiefdom. It is reasonable to surmise, from the available evidence, that King Saul, King David and King Solomon were, if anything, the kings of a very minor nation and not some great empire. Jerusalem, it seems, was nothing more than a "cow town," the capital of a small statelet in the highlands to the north of the village. Mencken refers to these people as "a little tribe of desert Bedouins, so obscure and unimportant that secular history scarcely knows them." (287)

"Moses probably did not exist historically, but is a legendary individual derived from a blend of various polytheistic sources and real personages like Sargon of Akkad & Akhenaten."

Spinoza dealt with:

> . . . misconceptions regarding the true authorship of the sacred books, beginning with the Pentateuch. The author is almost universally believed to be Moses, a view so obstinately defended by the Pharisees that they have regarded any other view as a heresy.[25]

The point is important because Mosaic authorship was regarded as the guarantee of the truth of the text. According to the Westminster Confession of 1658 (a statement of the leading English Protestants), God guaranteed the transmission of His message to Moses and preserved the Mosaic text perfectly in all transmissions from then on.[26]

Spinoza mentions that Aben Ezra, a medieval Spanish rabbi (ca. 1090-1165), who wrote an important commentary on the Bible, "a man of enlightened mind and considerable learning . . . was the first as far as I know, to call attention to this misconception." "Aben Ezra" appears to be a short form of the rabbi's name; H.L. Mencken refers to the 17th-century Spanish rabbi as Abraham ben Meir ibn Ezra, and states: "He unearthed many absurdities, but he had to be very careful about discussing them, and it was not until 500 years later that anything properly describable as scientific criticism of the Old Testament came into being." Ibn Ezra is, among medieval Jewish scholars and interpreters of the Torah, second only to Rashi in the scope of his influence and the respect he is accorded. His most celebrated work, analyzing the Pentateuch, is generally known as his *Commentary to the Torah*, was originally titled *The Book of the Upright*, which also happens to be the name of a work that is cited in the Bible itself (e.g., Joshua 10:13). The latter part of the rabbi's life was spent wandering in poverty through Italy, Provence, France, England, Egypt and Palestine. It appears that he may have wound up living in Morocco. It was during his wanderings that he composed most of his many influential literary works.

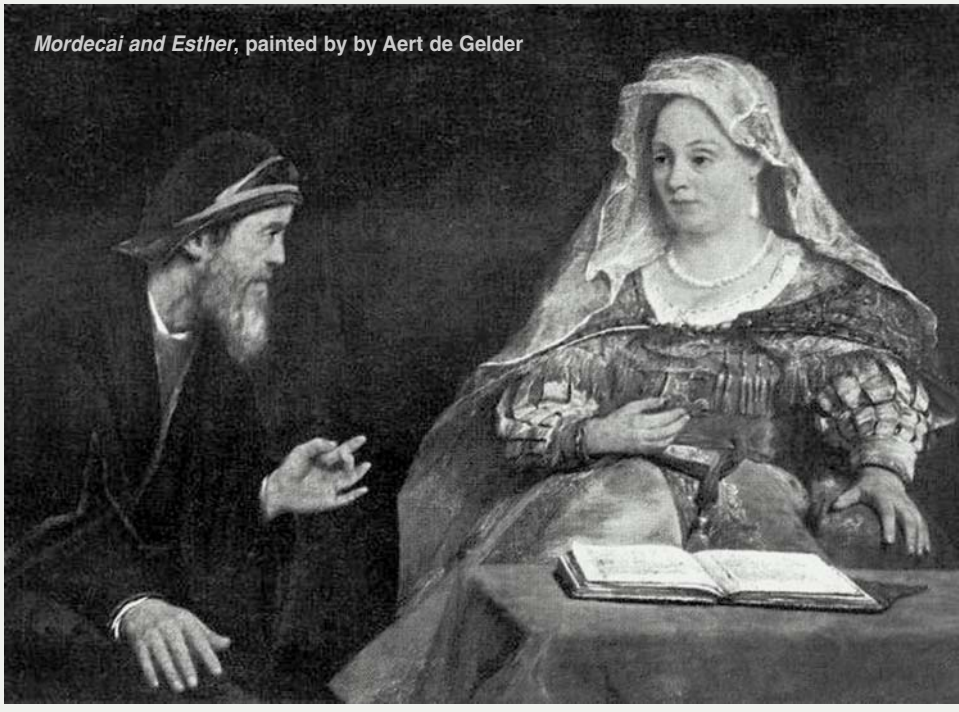
MOSES WRITES ABOUT HIS OWN DEATH?

Among other problems noted by ibn Ezra was the fact that Moses supposedly wrote in detail about his own death.[27] The recognition of the non-Mosaic authorship began to have serious and severe repercussions in the 1650s, in the writings of Thomas Hobbes, Isaac La Peyrère, Samuel Fisher and then Spinoza. They all seem to have gotten their view directly or indirectly from ibn Ezra. During the Puritan Revolution, a variety of critics known to history by such colorful names as Ranters, Levelers and Seekers, rejected the Bible for all sorts of reasons, including the obvious problems that learned Old Testament critics had dwelt upon, including the claim that Moses could not have written about his own death.

We can safely conclude that the Old Testament narratives of the past are clearly not history, nor were they written anytime near the eras of which they speak, but rather they reflect the political purposes of their much later authors. So therefore, it is now part of the scholarly consensus that the patriarchal narratives of Genesis do not record events of an alleged patriarchal period but are retrojections into a past about which the writers knew little, reflecting the authors' intentions at the later period of composition. It is naive, then, to slavishly accept the view that God made the promise of progeny and land to Abraham after the fashion indicated in Genesis 15.[28]

In the first place, as with the modern Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people, this would be horrifyingly

Esther's Purim Massacre



Mordecai and Esther, painted by by Aert de Gelder

The high holy Talmudic holiday of "Purim" is a time of slaughter out of revenge. Purim, the most joyous day in the Jewish calendar, is the traditional celebration of the alleged slaughter of tens of thousands of Persians in the days of Queen Esther. The historicity of the Esther story has been questioned, since no Persian queen of that name is known from any source other than the Bible, and the names of the protagonists, Esther and Mordecai, are suspiciously similar to the names of two top Babylonian deities, Ishtar and Marduk. According to the tale, the king of Persia, Ahasuerus, is convinced by his chief adviser, Haman, to exterminate the proto-"Jews" in a proto-holocaust. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, advises the secretly Jewish queen, Esther, to influence her husband to prevent the genocide. She succeeds, and instead the king orders a holocaust of his own people. During a two-day reign of terror, the Jews are permitted to run wild, murdering more than 75,000 non-Jews in the Persian realm. In reality, it is likely there was no plot against the Jews, but the allegation was used as a pretext to allow the Jews to murder those whom they perceived to be their enemies—men, women and children. Judaized Christians today are fooled into thinking the Purim celebration is perfectly harmless. Today the Jews celebrate a perpetual Purim by massacring the natives of Palestine.

immoral (try reading the narrative from the viewpoint of the innocent parties about to be exterminated, that is, with the eyes of the Canaanites). In the second place, it is contra-historical.

Scholars now agree, virtually unanimously, that ancient Israel did not come to exist by way of the tribal conquest narrated in Joshua 1-12. Outside of the Bible, we have no evidence of any Hebrew conquest. The archeological evidence points in an altogether different direction. It suggests a sequence of periods marked by a gradual and peaceful coalescence of disparate peoples into a group of highland dwellers whose achievement of a new sense of unity culminated only with the entry of the Assyrian administration. The Iron Age settlements on the central hills of Palestine, from which the later kingdom of Israel developed, reflect continuity with Canaanite culture and repudiate any ethnic distinction between Canaanites and Israelites. Israel's immediate origins, then, were within Canaan, not somewhere outside it.[29]

Archeological silence is a problem the biblical inerrantists do not like to talk about. While, according to the Bible, the various Israelite tribes were united for a time into one powerful nation during the reigns of King David and his son Solomon, the archeological record is silent about these kings except for two disputed inscriptions some think may be references to "the house of David." This is odd, considering that references to other kings of much less biblical importance, such as Omri, Ahab, Jehu and Zedekiah have been clearly found in extrabiblical records. While this silence obviously cannot prove David and Solomon did not exist, it certainly gives rational historians pause to wonder. Assuming that they did exist, they were certainly of far less global importance in real life than the Old Testament makes them out to have been.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS HELP

These conclusions have been aired among scholars for years, but political Zionists (especially the Jerry Fallwell types) are stubborn people, and until recently, nobody wanted to hear about it. Israelis and other political Zionists (a respectable segment of the Christian population) like to believe modern Israelis are the descendants of those wonderful Israelites of ancient times, and certainly they use the Old Testament myths to justify the Jewish occupation of Palestine—although ironically most Jews today including the ruling Ashkenazi class in Israel, are not descended from any Middle Eastern people but from the peoples of the Khazar empire of what today is southern Russia.[30] Even the Sephardic minority of Jews today are such a mixed race that it appears they can only claim a quite tenuous connection to the ancient Israelites.

Thompson has spent his academic career steeped in this biblical controversy, researching the intertwining archeological histories of Israel and Palestine He has con-

cluded that the Old Testament is not a historical document but should be regarded as a work of fiction, more like a historical novel than a history textbook. Thompson contends, however, that understanding the Old Testament as fictive literature does not have to undermine its spiritual truth and integrity for Christians, and this is important.

Thompson believes: "How the [Old Testament] is related to history has been badly misunderstood. As we have been reading the [Old Testament] within a context that is certainly wrong, and as we have misunderstood the [Old Testament] because of this, we need to seek a context more appropriate. As a result, we will begin to read the [Old Testament] in a new way."

Thompson is currently a professor of the Old Testament at the University of Copenhagen. Thompson's *The Mythic Past: Biblical Archaeology and the Myth of Israel* aims to separate the Old Testament from history in order to understand it on its own terms, in the context its authors intended. While parts of *Mythic Past* value research and analysis over readability, it is arranged to help aspiring scholars negotiate the vast and complex history of biblical understanding.

It should be noted that Thompson authored a magisterial tome in 1992, *Early History of the Israelite People* (EHIP), of 482 pages, with an extensive bibliography of approximately 900 books, which delves in depth into the questions involved with the historicity or non-historicity of the Bible. *Mythic Past* is largely a popularization of the compendious and detailed, highly professional but difficult-to-read *Early History of the Israelite People* .

"There is good history in the Old Testament, as long as one is able to contemplate the possibility that one is really reading about Egyptians or Hyksos or Sumerians recast as 'Israelites.'"

Many scholars already view the Old Testament as literature and not as factual reporting, but their ideas have not been easily accessible to the general public, nor is such thinking welcome to the average Christian. Even religious skeptics generally tend to think it is in bad taste to air these sensitive matters. And very few ordinary folks will go slogging through a book or journal on academic biblical scholarship or archeology written in turgid prose calculated to put most readers to sleep.

Thompson's shift in the way we see the Bible is the culmination of centuries of biblical criticism but it is still radical. Western Christianity has always narrated a great epic history of salvation based on the Bible: creation, the fall, the flood, the patriarchs, Moses, the exodus and the law, the conquest, the judges, the kings and prophets, and the promised Messiah. We are now invited to see the whole story as back-projected and mythical.

To read the Old Testament as history, says Thompson, is to distort it. In Thompson's words, "the misappropriation of ancient texts for purposes contrary to the tradition's intentions, which two generations of theological use of the Old Testament have now encouraged, is one of those common abuses of intellect" that "contributes to the pollution of the ocean of our language."

Unlike some others who critically analyze the Old Testament, Thompson does not become cynical, leaving the reader with a desire to "trash" the whole Bible—after all, one might be tempted to ask, if the Bible, constantly referred to by fundamentalists as the "Word of God,"[31] isn't literally true, then what good is it? On the contrary, Thompson finds enormous spiritual and philosophical value in these stories, reminding us that the biblical storytellers were passing on to us the wisdom of the ages, just as we do not demand that the stories told in the works of Shakespeare, even the so-called historical plays, be literally true.

There is even good historical content in the Old Testament, as long as one is willing to contemplate the possibility that one is really reading about Egyptians or Hyksos or Sumerians who have been recast as "Israelites." Of course, it becomes a tricky and intricate task to sort out the truth from the fiction and the distortions. We must bear in mind that when the Bible was written down, the modern concept of history writing did not exist.

Be that as it may, certainly the time is long overdue for recognizing that the Bible is not a collection of religious texts, but rather a hodgepodge of ancient documents (much reworked), some of which have no religious content at all, while a few may even incline to religious skepticism (Ecclesiastes comes to mind—see "The Style of Koheleth" by Robert Gordis, in Harold Bloom's *The Bible).* Written by numerous different authors, many of them unknown, the Bible's contents are a mixture of good, bad and mediocre, not infrequently contradictory. A highly selective reading of it is required if one is to get a positive moral message from this material—much of which is downright immoral. (You won't hear about those passages from your local pastor.)

Yet the Old Testament is certainly one of the most influential books ever in the Western World. It is to many a vital part of our heritage, and as such it needs to be properly understood for what it is—and what it is not. *Mythic Past* achieves this goal and achieves it in a readily comprehensible fashion making the "minimalist" view available to the average reader for the first time.

MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN

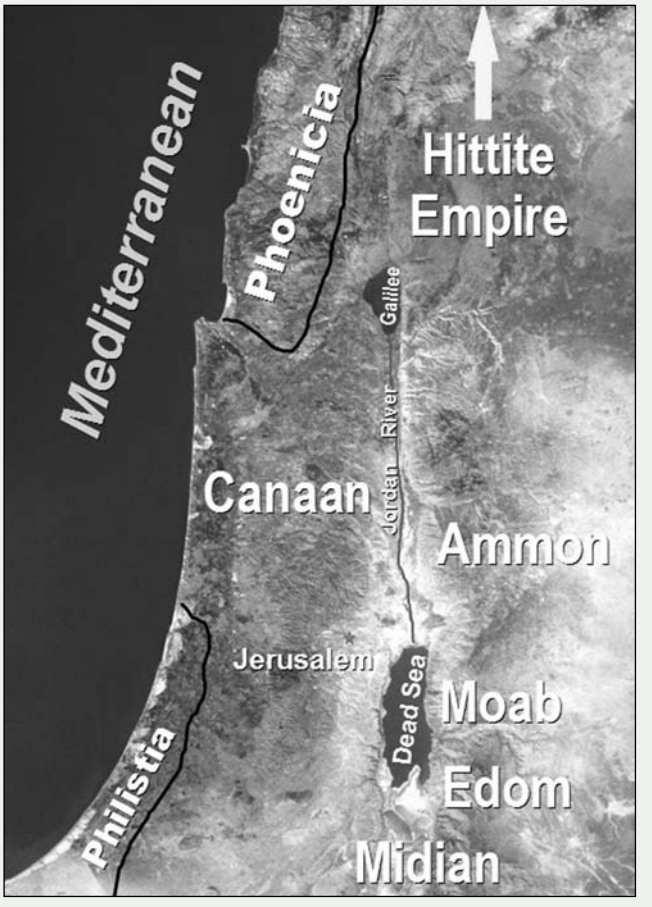
There have certainly been enough sad, shocking and sickening events in the real history of man's inhumanity to man. With the exception of a few harmless books such as Ruth, Proverbs and the Song of Solomon, the Old Testament is one of the most blood-soaked tomes one could ever hope to find. Thus, many Revisionists feel that we should perhaps feel relieved, and even rejoice, that some of the horrific, grisly slaughters described therein (such as the armed conquest of Canaan by the Israelites) may never have happened at all. Unfortunately, it is a safe bet that Zionists, including Christian Zionists, will not welcome the news that the ancient Israelites did not slaughter the native Canaanites to anything like the extent the Old Testament leads one to believe.

Thompson's book may not cover much that has not been covered by other scholars in the past, but it is a controversial volume nevertheless. Any attempt to question the reliability of the biblical historical descriptions is perceived (and rightly so) as tending to undermine the alleged historic right of the Jews (who point to some ambiguous passages in the Old Testament to "prove" that they are "God's chosen people") to the lands of Palestine and as shattering the myth of the bandit nation that is supposedly renewing the ancient kingdom of Israel. Unfortunately, the truth is never so monetarily profitable as a clever pack of lies, such as the web the Jewish Zionists and their dupes the Christian Zionists have spun.

Many a Christian will continue to go as a tourist to Israel and give money to the Israeli government, convinced that Moses and David existed and that the Old Testament is literally true—regardless of discrepancies.

Thomas Paine, for one, died friendless and broke because he would not mince words with regard to the truth as he saw it, but spoke and wrote forthrightly. In essence he was a martyr for truth. Voltaire was persecuted and forced to move from one nation to another to avoid "the monster" *("Ecrasez l'infame,"* or "crush the beast of persecution," he was fond of saying to his followers). Thomas L. Thompson, as noted above, has also suffered in very recent times for his honest, scholarly views. But still Revisionists feel morally impelled to always pursue the truth—no matter at what cost.

The mythic legends of Moses, Joshua, King David, Solomon etc are largely fake. The myths of the Old Testament are no more valid than the ancient Greek and Roman belief in a pantheon of idiosyncratic and psychologically unstable gods. But as today's Israel derives her very legitimacy for statehood (and for the continued genocide in Palestine) from these ancient fairy tales, it would seem the historical truth in this case undermines the very foundation of the modern state of Israel. ❖



At top, a map of the lands of Canaan around 1200 B.C. The Philistines occupy the Gaza area while the Phoenicians occupy an area equivalent to Lebanon. Both of these cultures left obvious archeological remains and were mentioned by other cultures. However, the only extrabiblical reference existing that mentions ancient Israel at all is the Merneptah Stele (right), dating from about 1207 B.C. According to this victory ode commissioned by Pharaoh Merneptah, "Israel is laid to waste, and his seed is not." Some scholars, led by Albrecht Alt, believe the Israelites were merely Canaanite pastoralist nomads who finally settled down in the central hill country east of the Jordan River during Iron Age 1. George Mendenhall proposes that the ancient Israelites are no more than Canaanites who left their original towns in the Late Bronze Age, and became dissidents or outlaws, rejecting their former nationality for a new identity.

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ENDNOTES:

[1]Paperback, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006.

[2]Isaiah 43: 16-19.

[3]John Donne, writing in 1611: "And new Philosophy calls all in doubt . . ." was troubled that the old answers no longer were capable of being regarded as true. But modern science has long since inoculated man against the permanence of all answers. (Donne, "The First Anniversary," in *The Poems of John Donne,* edited by Sir Robert Grierson [London, Oxford U. Press, 1933] 205-18.) Donne was not alone in his worry that all coherence was gone, that the natural order was giving way to disorder. (David H. Levy, *Starry Night: Astronomers and Poets Read the Sky,* Prometheus Books, Amherst, N.Y., 2001.)

[4]Eventually the Roman Catholic Church had to swallow the Copernican astronomy, by fiat of the Holy Office, on September 11, 1822, nearly three centuries after *De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium* was published. H.L. Mencken (259) predicted that the same thing would happen with the theory of evolution.

[5]The *Mappa Mundi,* or map of the world, in question here is a late 13th-century parchment credited to Richard of Holdingham. *(Trilobite: Eyewitness to Evolution,* Richard Fortey, Borzoi Books, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2000, 191.)

[6]As Tennyson, who knew that dinosaurs had once strode the Earth and were now extinct, poetically expressed it:

> The hills are shadows, and they flow
> From form to form, and nothing stands;
> They melt like mist, the solid lands,
> Like clouds they shape themselves and go.
> There rolls the deep where grew the tree.
> O Earth, what changes hast thou seen!
> There where the long street roars hath been
> The stillness of the central sea.

[7]Van Flandern, Tom, *Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets: Paradoxes Resolved: Origins Illuminated,* North Atlantic Books, Berkeley, California, 1993. Van Flandern finds many flaws in the Big Bang theory and has an entire cosmology of his own devising that is worthy of attention.

[8]The word "Hebrew," anciently written as "Habiru," means "one who is from across the river," i.e., an alien. In Egyptian writings, the word is paired with *"sagaz,"* meaning "cutthroat" or "bandit."

[9]Mencken, H.L., *Treatise on the Gods,* 2d ed., copyright Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1946, reprinted by Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, available from THE BARNES REVIEW BOOK CLUB, 94 pp., #229, $18.

[10]*Tractatus Theologico-Politicus,* vi. 51.

[11]Here is a typical quote from *Age of Reason:*

> There is a striking confusion between the historical and the chronological arrangement in the book of Judges. This shows the uncertain and fabulous state of the Old Testament. According to the chronological arrangement, the taking of Laish, and giving it the name of Dan, is made to be 20 years after the death of Joshua, who was the successor of Moses; and by the historical order, as it stands in the book, it is made to be 306 years after the death of Joshua, and 331 after that of Moses; but they both exclude Moses from being the writer of Genesis, because, according to either of the statements, no such a place as Dan existed in the time of Moses; and therefore the writer of Genesis must have been some person who lived after the town of Laish had the name of Dan; and who that person was nobody knows, and consequently the book of Genesis is anonymous; without authority."

And another:

> "Take away from Genesis the belief that Moses was the author . . . and there remains nothing of Genesis but an anonymous book of stories, fables, and traditionary or invented absurdities, or of downright lies. The story of Eve and the serpent, and of Noah and his ark, drops to a level with the Arabian Tales, without the merit of being entertaining, and the account of men living to eight and nine hundred years becomes as fabulous as the immortality of the giants of the mythology.

[12]We need to distinguish two terms here: the "historicity" of the Old Testament, and the "authenticity" of the Old Testament. Some authors would reverse the definitions, but as used here, by the historicity of the Old Testament is meant the correspondence between events and persons described in the Old Testament with events that actually transpired and people who really lived. The authenticity of the Old Testament would mean the degree to which the Bible as we know it today corresponds with what its original writers intended for it to say. It is a known fact that various theologians down through the centuries have rewritten the Bible to suit their particular agenda—a process that would usually detract from whatever historical truth may have been in it to start with. Herein we will not deal with the authenticity debate, although it might be noted in passing that the Bible, according to most modern, respected biblical scholars, is one of the most tampered-with scriptures on Earth, with dubious authorship and beginnings.

[13]A couple of web sites list numerous historical contradictions in the Old Testament. Among these, to mention just a few, are these:

> How old was Ahaziah when he took the throne? "Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign." (2 Kings 8:26) "Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign." (2 Chronicles 22:2)

When the chief of the mighty men of David lifted up his spear, how many men did he kill at one time? "Eight hundred." (2 Samuel 23:8) "Three hundred." (1 Chronicles 11:11) from *Losing Faith in Faith: From Preacher to Atheist,* by Dan Barker, and angelfire.com/ak/BaltoMuslims. The Angelfire website lists 101 contradictions, and Barker asserts that there are thousands of discrepancies in the Old Testament.)

[14]*The Bible: Modern Critical Views* 22.

[15]An example is the seminal work *Hamlet's Mill: An Essay Investigating the Origins of Human Knowledge and Its Transmission Through Myth,* by Giorgio de Santillana and Hertha Von Dechend (Nonpareil Books, 1969).

[16]Regarding Abraham, what can we say of a supposed historical figure whose life story conforms virtually in every detail to the mythic hero archetype, with nothing, no "secular" or mundane information, left over? It doesn't prove there was no historical King David, for it is not unreasonable that a genuine historical individual might become so lionized, even so deified, that his life and career would be completely assimilated to the mythic hero archetype, i.e. King Arthur. But if that happened, we could no longer be sure there had ever been a real person at the root of the whole thing. The stained glass would have become just too thick to peer through. Alexander the Great, Caesar, Cyrus, Arthur and others have nearly suffered this fate. What keeps historians from dismissing them as mere myths, like Paul Bunyan, is that there is some residue. We know at least a bit of mundane information about them, perhaps quite a bit, that does not form part of any legend cycle. Or they are so intricately woven into the history of the time that it is impossible, to make sense of that history without them. This is not the case with King David.

[17]We shall leave to one side such quotations as that of Niels Bohr, who, when speaking to a younger theoretical physicist, is said to have said: "Your theory is crazy. But it's not crazy enough to be true." Similarly, the common saying that, "Truth is stranger than fiction," is no justification for an uncritical or "anything goes" approach in history. In Tertullian's treatise *De Carne Christi,* he is arguing against Marcion, whose contention was that the humiliation implied in the fact of the Incarnation was unworthy of God. Tertullian answers this in a passage splendidly paradoxical and profoundly spiritual: "Spare the whole world's one and only hope, thou who art destroying the indispensable dishonor of our faith. Whatever is unworthy of God is of gain to me. . . . The Son of God is born; we are not ashamed, because we ought to be ashamed. And the Son of God died; it is perfectly credible, because it is absurd. And being buried He rose again; it is certain, because it is impossible." *("Natus est Dei Filius; non pudet quia pudendum est; et mortuus est Dei Filius; prorsus credibile est quia ineptum est; et sepultus resurrexit; certum est quia impossibile")* To a scientist, this is on a par with the statement by the Red Queen to Alice that it was her regular practice "to believe six impossible things every day before breakfast." The fact that theoretical physics, and even mathematics, the queen of sciences, are rife with paradoxes (one thinks, for example, of how the Polish mathematicians Stefan Banach and Alfred Tarski in 1924 proved that it is theoretically possible to take a small solid sphere, say the size of a pea, divide it into a finite number of parts and reassemble them into a solid sphere the size of the Sun, which violates our intuitive understanding of the meaning of the word "volume") is a separate issue. Anyway, history, which is full of unexpected twists and turns, demands evidence, not plausibility. Just as a butterfly fluttering its wings a certain way by chance in Peking may cause a tornado to occur in Kansas, as chaos theorists inform us, so the course of world history might be utterly changed by such a trivium as the happenstance length of a woman's nose (Cleopatra). It is, in fact, fiction that demands plausibility; and this is the basis for Thompson's argument on behalf of a literary approach to biblical material. Still, when what is promoted as being history is simply too fantastic to be believable, it becomes necessary to take a closer look at the verifiable facts, for, as the scientists might say, an extraordinary scenario requires extraordinary proof.

[18]Author of *Why I Am Not a Muslim* and *The Quest for the Historical Muhammad.*

[19]Author of *Jihad in the West.*

[20]*Tempest & Exodus,* by Ralph Ellis, Edfu Books, pub. in the U.S. by Adventures Unlimited, Kempton, Ill., 2000, 2001.

[21]Author of *The Invention of Ancient Israel.*

[22]Author of *The Israelites in History and Tradition,* and of *Prelude to Israel's Past: Background and Beginnings of Israelite History and Identity.*

[23]Author of *Scribes and Schools: The Canonization of the Hebrew Scriptures.*

[24]Author with Neil Asher Silberman of *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Text.*

[25]*Tractatus* viii., 161.

[26]*The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza,* Don Garett, ed., Cambridge University Press, 1996, 386.

[27]Similar problems exist with regard to Isaiah, for example. The prophet Isaiah is traditionally supposed to have written the book of Isaiah; but while it is very likely that he wrote parts of it, "[t]he idea of his having written the whole of it is completely impossible. In several chapters he is actually spoken of in the third person. Three main documents have been separated from the book, but there are also other lesser ones, and two whole chapters appear to be lifted bodily from II Kings. Isaiah has strained biblical scholarship very uncomfortably, and many of the problems that it presents are still under furious discussion. The literature upon the subject is almost endless, and makes very hard reading." (Mencken 200)

[28]"Confronting the Bible's Ethnic Cleansing in Palestine," by Michael Prior, C.M., in *The Link,* published by Americans for Middle Eastern Understanding Inc., vol. 33, No. 5, Dec. 2000.

[29]*Ibid.*

[30]Worth quoting in this connection is a passage from the prominent Jewish writer Arthur Koestler. He told this curious but little-known story in his 1976 book *The Thirteenth Tribe:*

> [T]he large majority of surviving Jews in the world is of Eastern European—and thus mainly of Khazar—origin. If so, this would mean that their ancestors came not from the Jordan but from the Volga, not from Canaan but from the Caucasus . . . and that genetically they are more closely related to the Hun, Uigur and Magyar tribes than to the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Should this turn out to be the case, then the term "anti-Semitism" would become void of meaning . . . The story of the Khazar empire, as it slowly emerges from the past, begins to look like the most cruel hoax which history had ever perpetrated.

Corroborating Koestler, a noted French Jew, Prof. Maxime Rodinson, has observed: "it is very probable that the so-called Arab inhabitants of Palestine . . . have much more of the ancient Hebrews' 'blood' than most of the Jews of the diaspora, whose religious exclusiveness in no way prevented them from absorbing converts of various religions."

It will surely be acknowledged, then, that for such people to denounce Palestinian Arabs as "anti-Semites" for resisting the Khazar-Zionist seizure of their millennia-old homes and lands must be close to the height (or depth) of what these folks smirkingly call *chutzpah. (Talk About Hate,* by William N. Grimstad, Council on Hate Crimes Injustice, 1999)

[31]As early as the 17th century, controversies arose as to the theory of the inspiration of the Bible, which led certain theologians to change the formula from, "The Bible is the Word of God," to, "The Bible contains the Word of God."

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JOSHUA'S WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

BY JOHN TIFFANY

THE PROBLEMS OF TRYING TO CORRELATE archeological findings from such places as Ai, Hazor and Jericho with the biblical accounts of events are well known. Dame Kathleen Kenyon, in the 1950s, carried out excavations in Jericho that revealed a complicated picture of this ancient town's development. One of her conclusions was that Jericho was actually a deserted ruin at the time of the alleged "Israelite conquest," if that "conquest" is correctly dated at around 1225 B.C. She found traces of 17 successive stages of fortifications, the last of which was violently destroyed around 2300 B.C. These apparently would have been "Joshua's walls," but unfortunately fully 1,000 years before Joshua came on the scene, if he ever existed. (The city was later reoccupied for a time, but even this secondary occupation came to an end no later than 1300 B.C.)

Most archeologists, even the celebrated Israeli archeologist Dr. Yigael Yadin, who excavated Hazor, have concluded that the Jericho story probably is fiction created by later generations to explain the presence of these formidable ruins, an etiological fiction that became attached to the name of the legendary folk hero Joshua.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the change in how the Old Testament is viewed as history continued to gain

momentum with the publication of Thomas L. Thompson's very impressive doctoral thesis on the non-historicity of the narratives about the Hebrew patriarchs presumably dating from the second millennium B.C. Thompson had started out as a strong believer in historicity, but his research convinced him otherwise.

Due to strong reactions against the 1971 thesis, author Thompson found it impossible to get his Ph.D. in Europe or to get his book[1] published in the United States. In 1975, when he left Germany and returned to the United States, the controversies over that early book shut him out of university teaching, and he became a full-time house painter and handyman.

Eventually (after 10 years of isolation) he got back into academe, but then with the publication of his later book, *Early History of the Israelite People: From the Written and Archaeological Sources* (EHIP; E.J. Brill, Leiden, New York and Koln, 1992), a firestorm of criticism again struck, and he found himself denied tenure at Marquette University, a Jesuit institution, where officials were very unhappy over his research. Fortunately he was called to take up a chair in Old Testament studies at the University of Copenhagen, where he has been since 1993.

Thompson feels that the narratives of the Old Testament are not real happenings but should be regarded purely as a collection of allegorical tales. Said he:

> If we reflect on how easy it is to challenge the historicity not only of a David or Solomon but of events in the reigns of Hezekiah or Josiah . . . the very substance of any historical project that attempts to write a history of the late second- or early first-millennium B.C. in Palestine on the basis of a direct integration of biblical and extrabiblical sources, . . . must appear not only dubious but wholly ludicrous.[2]

"T.L. Thompson feels that the narratives of the earlier parts of the Old Testament are not real happenings but should be regarded purely as a collection of allegorical tales."

However, to say that it would be a complete waste of time for anyone to attempt to confirm these narratives through archeology, as Thompson and his "Copenhagen school" claim, would, in the opinion of this reviewer, be going too far. David M. Rohl takes the view:

> . . . [T]hat it is certainly possible and reasonable to write a history of the Israelites based on the evidence provided by archeology and the narrative texts. My point of departure from the stance of Thomas L. Thompson, for example, is my preparedness to accept that the Old Testament narratives are as valid a source for ancient history as any other ancient document. . . . All ancient documents are written by humans, and therefore embody the beliefs, aspirations and traditions of a particular culture. They are also, of course, susceptible to errors of fact, political bias, economy of truth and miscopying.[3]

We must conclude that Joshua and his men did not bring down the fabled walls of Jericho. And other cities supposedly conquered by Joshua simply did not exist during the supposed time of the conquest. Tales of Joshua are almost entirely fictional. ❖

ENDNOTES:

[1]"The Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives"; BZAW, 133 (Berlin, de Gruyter, 1974).

[2]*Early History of the Israelite People*, Thompson, 403-04.

[3]David M. Rohl (*Pharaohs and Kings: A Biblical Quest*, Crown Publishers, NY, 1995, originally published in the UK as *A Test of Time: The Bible From Myth to History*) 38. Rohl's magisterial work is unusual in being both scholarly and lavishly illustrated. Rohl approaches his subject (the attempt to reconcile the Bible with history, focusing especially on the Third Intermediary Period of Egypt) without a religious ax to grind, and his book should be required reading for anyone with an interest in this controversy.

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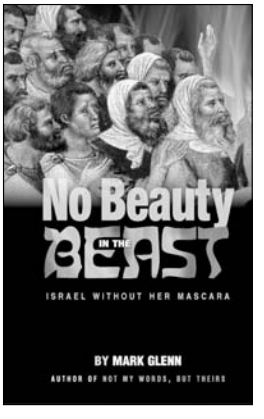

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All Aboard Trans-Atlantic Union's Non-Stop Arab Holocaust Express Train

By Hesham Tillawi

Saddam Hussein is dead, but his death had nothing to do with how many people he killed or caused to die. All aboard, friends, Saddam's death is just one stop on this long Israeli train of Arab holocaust. What exactly happened in Saddam's execution chamber? Inquiring people want to know. Who was there, and what did they say? Was it Muqtada Al Sadr's people? Was it the Americans? Was it the Shiites? The inquiry goes on and on. The media (TV, radio, print, internet and a plethora of talking heads) all are concentrating on what will happen now between the Sunnis and Shiites.

The Arab media is to be blamed before the Western media. The real story got buried in the sensational details of what took place during the hanging and the case was used to yet again inflame sectarian violence among the Iraqi people.

Saddam was hanged for the Aldujail "massacre" wherein 148 Iraqi Shiites lost their lives after an assassination attempt on Saddam while he was the president of Iraq, which occurred in the middle of the Iran-Iraq War—a war in which some of those arrested, tried and condemned to die by a court of law admitted to being Iranian agents. Granted, it was a court system that was under Saddam's regime, but that was the only court system in the country at that time, and the world accepted it.

What about the other atrocities committed by Saddam's regime? And, by the way, that regime should not be singled out, because most regimes in the area will condemn to death those who try to assassinate their leaders. What about Hallabjah and the gassing of the Kurds? Don't you think the Kurds wanted to try him for that too? As a matter of fact, Saddam was hanged in the middle of another trial known as the Al-anfal issue. What about the war with Iran, the invasion of Kuwait, the killings of his own son-in-law and other relatives? After 25 years of Saddam's rule over Iraq, there was not even one question to Saddam about the handling of the affairs of Iraq under his rule.

What would Saddam have said about all that? What would he have said about his dealings with America and the CIA throughout his reign? The U.S. occupation forces that set up the kangaroo court approved the judges, and removed judges who were deemed friendly to Saddam. This court told us that it was a purely Iraqi decision to hang Saddam on the first day of Eid Al-adh. In fact, Iraqi law prohibits the execution of anyone on that particular day. I am sure the Americans could have kept him for one more day if they wanted to. But hanging him on that day played well in the script of why Bush went to war against Iraq in the first place.

So, why did we go over to Iraq, destroy the country, and kill its president?

The U.S. Army could have killed Saddam when they "captured" him, and that would have given Bush an extra feather in his hat, which he needed desperately at the time. But instead they kept him for a much better use later. They took him out of the rat hole all drugged up and disoriented. I am not sure how he went in there to start with. Probably a couple of Marines had to use their boots to squeeze him down the hole, but that's another story. So, they brought him out and fed him well; all the American Raisin Bran, Cheetos and Doritos he wanted. He

hated Froot Loops, and wouldn't touch Cheetos after he found Doritos. They gave it to him by the bag, and as a good boy he would go into a corner of his cell and eat it all, in 10 minutes.

Robert Ellis was a military nurse with one wartime assignment: "Make sure Saddam stays alive."

Ellis's orders were clear. He said, "That was my job: to keep him alive and healthy, so they could kill him later." Saddam once asked Ellis: "Why did the Americans invade Iraq?" And that is the tragedy of Arab leaders. A president of what once was the strongest and most technological Arab country had no clue why he was invaded and his country destroyed. How many other Arab leaders have no clue of what may be coming their way?

Saddam's hanging had nothing to do with Saddam. Chew on the following: In his Complete Diaries, Vol. II. p. 711, Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism, says that the area of the Jewish state stretches "from the brook of Egypt to the Euphrates." Rabbi Fischmann, member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared in his testimony to the UN special committee of inquiry on July 9, 1947: "The promised land extends from the river of Egypt up to the Euphrates; it includes parts of Syria and Lebanon."

"Since Israel was unable to accomplish the task of breaking up Iraq on its own, it therefore had to give the job to a surrogate power. That power of course is the United States."

I will discuss four documents of interest here, which should shed some light on this long Israeli express train to pandemonium. The first was translated by Israel Shahak from Hebrew in 1982 entitled "A Strategy for Israel in the 1980s." Shahak wrote: "This strategy paper plan operates on two essential premises: (1) To survive, Israel must become an imperial regional power, and (2) [Israel] must effect the division of the whole area into small states by the dissolution of all existing Arab states." This is a detailed document of Israel's strategy for the Middle East, which is based on breaking up Arab nations into small, weak states.

The document further stated:

> The existence, prosperity and steadfastness of the Jewish state will depend upon its ability to adopt a new framework for its domestic and foreign affairs. . . . All the Arab states east of Israel are torn apart, broken up and riddled with inner conflict. . . . Iraq is, once again, no different in essence from its neighbors, although its majority is Shiite and the ruling minority Sunni. Some 65% of the population has no say in politics, in which an elite of 20% holds the power. In addition there is a large Kurdish minority in the north, and if it weren't for the strength of the ruling regime, the army and the oil revenues, Iraq's future state would be no different than that of Lebanon in the past or of Syria today. The seeds of inner conflict and civil war are apparent today already, especially after the rise of Khomeini to power in Iran, a leader whom the Shiites in Iraq view as their natural leader.
>
> Iraq, rich in oil on the one hand and internally torn on the other, is guaranteed as a candidate for Israel's targets. Its dissolution is even more important for us than that of Syria. Iraq is stronger than Syria. In the short run it is Iraqi power that constitutes the greatest threat to Israel. An Iraqi-Iranian war will tear Iraq apart and cause its downfall at home even before it is able to organize a struggle on a wide front against us. Every kind of inter-Arab confrontation will assist us in the short run and will shorten the way to the more important aim of breaking up Iraq into denominations as in Syria and in Lebanon. In Iraq, a division into provinces along ethnic/religious lines as in Syria during Ottoman times is possible.
>
> So, three (or more) states will exist around the three major cities (Basra, Baghdad and Mosul), and Shi'ite areas in the south will separate from the Sunni and Kurdish north. It is possible that the present Iranian-Iraqi confrontation will deepen this polarization.

See Hesham Tillawi, Mark Glenn, Willis Carto, Mark Lane, Nader Talebzadeh, Rabbi Yisroel Weiss & others debate "the Mess in the Mideast" at the 2006 TBR Authentic History Conference, Labor Day 2006 . . . ON DVD or VHS . . .

FREE BONUS! SEGMENT 1: **Lady Michele Renouf**, a member of the holocaust panel, discusses jailed truth-telling historians and why they have become the number one target of those wishing to destroy Revisionism. Lady Renouf, who dedicated much of her time over the past year getting jailed David Irving freed, also brings us up to date on other imprisoned Revisionists and what the chances are they will be freed soon.

THE MIDEAST PANEL: Jewish attorney **Mark Lane**, Palestinian Muslim talk show host **Hesham Tillawi**, anti-Zionist Jewish Rabbi **Yisroel Dovid Weiss**, Lebanese-American, anti-Zionist author **Mark Glenn**, Iranian Muslim filmmaker **Nader Talebzadeh**—producer of the most popular film in Iranian history—interestingly enough about the life of Jesus—plus Iranian-born American constitutional activist **Peymon Mottahedeh** and TBR publisher **Willis A. Carto**—all take the gloves off in this amazing example of free speech at its very best. This panel has been called the highlight of the entire conference and more than one conference attendee was brought to tears by the tales told by these amazing gentlemen. Not even at the United Nations will you ever see Jews, Muslims and Christians together discussing the important topics covered in this energetic panel lecture.

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As you see here in simple English, Israel planned a long time ago to break up Iraq.

Now we move to Israel's plan of attack. Since Israel was unable to accomplish the task of breaking up Iraq on its own, it had to give the job to a surrogate power. That power of course is the United States.

The second document was prepared back in 1992 by the Cheney Defense Department under the administration of George H.W. Bush and came to be known publicly as the Defense Planning Guide (DPG), crafted then by the would-be infamous I. Lewis Libby, Paul Wolfowitz and Zalmay Khalilzad. James Mann, author of the 2004 book *The Rise of the Vulcans*, reported that these men were given the task of devising the DPG, a classified document that outlines U.S. military strategies and provides a framework for developing the defense budget.

Libby and Wolfowitz were given the task of devising a new framework for the U.S. policy in the post Cold War era. Khalilzad, a longtime aide to Wolfowitz, was given the task of drafting the report, probably just to have a Muslim in the midst of this complicated policy paper. Other participants in this project were Richard Perle and Albert Wohlstetter, who was credited by many to be the mentor of Wolfowitz and Perle.

The main recommendations of this document were: Massive increase in defense spending; the U.S. to be the only superpower in the world; prevent any regional power from challenging the U.S.; the use of preemptive force to protect U.S. interests; and interfering in disputes throughout the world even when the U.S. is not involved in these disputes.

They stated that the United States should "retain the preeminent responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests, but those of our allies or friends, or which could seriously disrupt international relations." Israel is referred to as an ally and a friend of the United States by most government officials in America every chance they get. Just keep this in mind as you follow this plan, which took 10 years to implement.

When news of the plan was first leaked to the public in 1992, the White House publicly rejected it and distanced itself from the people who worked on it. Interestingly enough the men who were outcasts during the reign of Bush the father, became the rulers of the White House during the rein of Bush the son, who also thinks of himself as the Holy Ghost.

In 1996 another document was prepared by the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies by the "Study Group on a New Israeli Strategy Toward 2000." Wolfowitz and Perle among others drafted the document entitled "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm."

This document was a straightforward strategy paper—a plan—of what Israel should do to become the only regional power in the Middle East. The document stated: "Israel can shape its strategic environment, in cooperation with Turkey and Jordan, by weakening, containing and even rolling back

PMs Primed for Terror

Many, in fact most, top Israeli leaders got their start as out-and-out terrorists and assassins. Here is a short list of some criminal prime ministers of the Zionist statelet, along with some of their enormities:

• David Ben-Gurion

This war criminal gave the orders; others carried them out. His organization, the Haganah, teamed up with the Irgun and the Stern gangs, which they had previously denounced as terrorists, fascists and madmen. After directing the 1948 war to conquer Palestine and drive out its inhabitants, he became prime minister. It was his idea to create a civil war in Lebanon to establish a government there that would align itself with Israel. It was difficult to get this war going, but his continued efforts over several years were eventually successful. Hundreds of thousands of "*goyim*" died as a result.

• Yitzhak Rabin

In 1948 this war criminal "ethnically cleansed" 70,000 Palestinians from Lydda and Ramleh. Several hundred resident civilians were massacred to get people moving. In 1967 Rabin ordered the genocide of some 5,000 natives from the villages of Emwas, Beit Nuba and Yalou. He also ordered the dynamiting and bulldozing of their homes.

• Menachem Begin

Leader of the terrorist gang "Irgun," Begin was responsible for the Deir Yassin massacre, the bombing of the King David Hotel and other atrocities.

• Yitzhak Shamir

Operations commander of the Stern Gang terrorists. Proposed establishment of a totalitarian Jewish state. Responsible (with Begin) for Deir Yassin mass murder. Organized killing of Lord Moyne, British minister resident for the Middle East, on November 6, 1944, and the shocking assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, UN peace mediator on Palestine, on September 17, 1948.

• Benjamin (Binyamin) Netanyahu

Responsible for ordering the shelling and bombing of civilians by Israeli military forces in Lebanon.

• Shimon Peres

Another one responsible for ordering shelling and bombing of civilians.

• Ehud Barak

In 1973, while dressed as an Arab woman, Barak assassinated three Palestinian leaders in Beirut, including poet Kemal Nasser.

• Ariel Sharon

Presided over the massacre of some 2,000-3,000 civilians at the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Beirut. Founded Unit 101, a notorious death squad within the Israeli Defense Force. For many years, he commanded cross-border Unit 101 raids—for example, the 1953 massacre at Qibia (or Kibya), where civilians were blown up while inside their houses.

Syria. This effort can focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq—an important Israeli strategic objective in its own right." This clearly proves that the removal of Saddam Hussein from power is an Israeli plan that took shape long before September 11, 2001. It was also written: "Israel can make a clean break from the past and establish a new vision for the U.S.-Israeli partnership based on self-reliance, maturity and mutuality—not one focused narrowly on territorial disputes. Israel's new strategy [will be] based on a shared philosophy of peace through strength.

In other words it is time for Israel to step up and claim "what is rightfully hers," the foreign policy of the United States based on the premise that AIPAC is in total control of Congress, and other institutions such as JINSA are in control of policy. Israel no longer needs to operate behind the scenes. This document was written specifically for then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as a guide for Israeli foreign policy. When presented to then President Clinton, he did not accept it and refused to make a move toward the removal of Saddam. It was no surprise that most of these so-called neocons are Zionist Jews and have finally "secured the realm" in George W. Bush's administration, making the decision on their own to get rid of Saddam.

Douglas Feith ended up running the Office of Special Plans at the Pentagon under Wolfowitz who was Rumsfeld's deputy secretary of defense in the first G.W. Bush administration. This occurred during the run-up to the war on Iraq where the Niger uranium story was fabricated and used as one of the pretenses to attack Iraq. There were other well-known Zionists with sensitive policymaking positions such as David Wurmser, who was appointed by Vice President Cheney as Middle East advisor, and James Colbert, Communication director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.

You might wonder how these Zionists sold the idea of destroying Iraq for Israel to others in the United States who may not be as enthusiastic about making such a decision for Israel's benefit. This is not the problem it might appear to be. There are always other documents of a similar nature that could be churned up to fit the U.S. psyche.

This brings us up to the fourth document that was prepared by the same cabal, the Project for the New American Century. This document was based on the 1992 DPG and renewed few months before Bush's regime was installed in 2000 by a single man's vote in the 5-4 Supreme Court decision. Like the old 1992 document this one called for: An attack on Iraq and the removal of Saddam's regime, a huge increase in military expenditures, the establishment of new American military bases all over the world, a stressing of the concept of "preemptive war" and the taking of unilateral action as a strategic policy by circumventing the UN. As you can see, the scheme to attack Iraq was planned years before the planes hit the towers and at a time when bin Laden was an American asset.

This plan looks pretty good for the American appetite for world hegemony. Looking at the list of signatories to the Project for the New American Century makes one understand better what happened in Florida in 2000 with the presidential election. These people had to win in order for 9/11 to take place. Saddam, Iraq and the rest of the Arab countries had to be destroyed, destabilized or partitioned to start the countdown to the emergence of Greater Israel.

Here is a partial list of signatories to this document and the positions they held at the start of the war: Dick Cheney, became vice president; Donald Rumsfeld, secretary of defense; Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense; I. Lewis Libby, chief of staff to Dick Cheney; Peter Rodman, assistant to secretary of defense; Elliot Abrams, Bush's national security advisor; Richard Perle, member of Bush's Defense Policy Board; Jeb Bush, the president's brother; Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for global affairs; Peter Rodman, Rumsfeld's assistant for international security affairs; Randy Scheunemann, advisor to Rumsfeld in Iraq; and others.

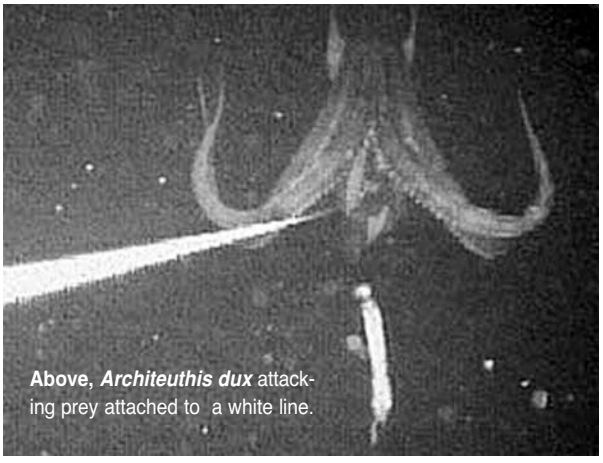
"I don't know why we call them neocons. They are old cons. There is one striking similarity between these people: All are Likudniks who think of Israel's welfare before the United States."

I don't know why we call them neocons; they are old cons. There is one striking similarity between these people: The vast majority of them are Jewish, and all of them are Likudniks who think of Israel's welfare before that of the U.S. These people have been planning this for over a quarter of a century, and when the time was right, they all got in their predefined positions and executed the plan perfectly. Once they started the domino effect of sectarian violence in Iraq, they can now sit back and watch the rest of the Arab world follow suit. Or is that what they hoped would happen?

Some people might say, "Here we go again, blaming everything on the Zionist Jews." I say, they are wrong. The documents, the people, their ideology, the positions they held, their hatred, their ambitions, and their names say so; I am just making words out of the alphabet. But I will leave you with what Rep. James Moran of Virginia, who lost his Democratic leadership post, told supporters: that "the Jewish community" was the only community that could stop this war. The realm is secured. ❖

HESHAM TILLAWI is a Palestinian-American who hosts the internet television show *Current Issues.* The show can be seen on Tillawi's website: www.currentissues.tv. Also see more of his writings as well as postings by other authors and personalities. Tillawi "wowed the crowd" at the TBR Authentic History Conference in 2006.

Tales of the Kraken



Above, *Architeuthis dux* attacking prey attached to a white line.

According to Dana Edwards, writing for *The West Georgian*, Tsunemi Kubodera, a Japanese scientist, has successfully photographed a creature once thought only to exist in folklore. In early December 2006, Kubodera and his team brought a fairly mature giant squid into the limelight. While the giant squid has had a recent revival in interest, the creature has its roots planted firmly in history. Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* included an epic fight scene with the "kraken," a giant squid, that nearly sank his submarine, the *Nautilus*. The animal photographed by the team is some 25 feet in length. Giant squids can grow up to 60 feet long, but according to scientists they spend their lives hundreds of yards under the sea. This is said to be the reason the creatures have not been spotted by people other than sailors. Maybe so, but the creature the scientists photographed was floating near the surface. Tales of squids attacking ships, even plucking men off the deck with their massive tentacles, suddenly have new credibility. Meanwhile, a "colossal squid" (that's the name scientists have given it) with eyes the size of dinner plates and a beak like a parrot's has been caught off the coast of Antarctica, near New Zealand. It's only half-grown but scientists think it's a real catch because it is only the second colossal squid ever found with all its parts still there. It is different from a giant squid: for one thing it is much bigger, and is almost unrelated, other than the fact that both are squids. Its 25 teeth-like hooks are as sharp as razors and can turn around 360 degrees like a can opener.

Is Belgium Doomed?

Many people in Wallonia, the French-speaking southern half of Belgium, were duped by a fake recent news item in which Flanders, the Dutch-speaking north, had declared independence. This proves Flemish secession has become a definite possibility. It is understandable the Walloons panicked, because they are concerned that the Flemings are no longer inclined to continue subsidizing Wallonia as they have done over the past 176 years of Belgium's existence. About 40% of the Walloons "work" as civil servants, compared to only 20% of the Flemings; 20% of the Walloons are unemployed, compared to only 8% of the Flemings. If the Walloons refuse to remedy this situation and if they keep voting for irresponsible and corrupt socialist politicians, they will be asking for the end of Belgium. Over half the Flemish population is in favor of Flemish independence. Oddly enough, Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is also the headquarters of the European Union.

Continued on reverse . . .

Are More Black Days Ahead for Once-Thriving Zimbabwe?

According to Environment News Service, there seems to be no solution in sight to the disastrous political and economic situation in black-ruled Zimbabwe (formerly white-ruled Rhodesia). Since the whites surrendered the country to Communist blacks, the whole nation only deteriorates rapidly. The International Monetary Fund predicts Zimbabwe's inflation will exceed 4,500% before the end of the year. More than 80% of the workforce is jobless, as businesses lay off staff at an accelerating pace or simply close. The minority who are still employed have seen the real value of their incomes slashed by inflation in all sectors. Infrastructure is crumbling. The country, a breadbasket of Africa in the days of white rule, now produces only a third of the food needed to feed the population. Meanwhile, says the Harare *Mail and Guardian* newspaper, in a recent report, nine people have caught cholera in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare (formerly Salisbury), most likely from drinking contaminated water. People have been forced to seek water from even more dangerous sources as the southern African nation suffers from a complete breakdown in municipal services.

Mystery of Bornholm

A major mystery surrounds the medieval churches on the island of Bornholm, Denmark. Fifteen churches were built on the island between 1150 and about 1250; four of them are round, a very unusual shape for churches of that era. All are extremely heavily built, and located about one hour's walk inland from the coast. Recent books and papers on the subject indicate that the churches were not just places for the crusaders to store their loot from the Holy Land. Rather, it seems the Knights Templar were carrying out an astonishing experiment in occult geodesy. Richard Heath, in his book *Sacred Number and the Origins of Civilization*, shows how the lines connecting the round churches of Bornholm define 30-degree angles and an axis that goes through the center of the island before traveling northeast to intersect the tiny islet of Christianso. The same bearing, going southwest, is simultaneously that of Rennes-le-Chateau, the mystery-shrouded town in Laguedoc, southern France. According to a paper by Erling Haagensen, "Apparent Early Mediaeval Experiment in Geodesy," the overall accuracy of the triangulation is found to be within 1/100th of a degree. Haagensen believes the churches were used as astronomical observatories to measure the shape and size of the curvature of the Earth, an amazing accomplishment for the 12th century.

Above, one of the round Templar churches on the Isle of Bornholm.

. . . MORE HISTORY YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Continued from previous page . . .

Funny Business in Nevada

Historians say Nevada's inclusion in the Union in 1864 was questionable. Seems its population was smaller than the required norm for statehood. President Abraham Lincoln rushed Nevada's statehood through, in order to secure the state's rich silver supply for the Union.

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Another Martyr to History

Dr. Bruno Gollnisch leads the recently formed patriotic group at the European Union Parliament and is also the vice chairman of the National Front, one of France's three main political parties. Gollnisch is working to unite patriots on a pan-European level. Naturally he supported Jean Marie Le Pen's failed bid for the presidency of France. His stance makes him a target of the enemies of free speech and of nationalism. Gollnisch has just been sentenced to a three month jail sentence (suspended), to a fine of 5,000 euros ($6,500) and to pay another 55,000 euros ($71,500) to various associations because he dared to suggest that historians should have the right to debate World War II history.

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Happy Maundy Thursday!

What is Maundy Thursday? Well, the term comes from the Latin word for mandate, because it was on the Thursday before Easter that Jesus, at the last supper, mandated his disciples to practice the Holy Communion. Maundy Thursday is also the one day when we would almost rather be living under a king, because in Britain, this is the day when the monarch traditionally hands out what is called Maundy money—usually taking the form of silver pence and other coins. The practice, although called ancient by some, actually goes back only about 700 years, to the time of King Edward I. During the 17th century, and earlier, the king or queen would wash the feet of selected poor people as a gesture of humility, and in remembrance of Jesus Christ's washing of the feet of the disciples. The last monarch to do this was James II.

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Will the Real Hitler Please Stand Up?

Norman Mailer, a left winger who hacked up Jesus in *The Gospel According to the Son*, has written a smear in the form of a fictionalized biography of Adolf Hitler. His *The Castle in the Forest* is total fabrication and filth, as you would expect from such an author. The truth about Hitler, contrary to what Mailer has penned, is that he was an artist and opera lover, a great speechmaker, with an incredible memory; he was a master military strategist, with a magnetic personality that scores of women found irresistible (See our Degrelle memoirs, page 51.—Ed.). Yes, it is true he was inbred, but not to excess, and what of it? The pharaohs of ancient Egypt and the Incas were as inbred as anyone on Earth, and did not suffer for it. For an accurate depiction of this most unusual man, a must read is *The Young Hitler I Knew*, by August Kubizek (Greenhill Books, 2006).

Troublemaking Empresses?

THE TRADITIONAL VIEW IS THAT TZU-HSI, or Cixi (pictured left), the dowager empress of China (1835-1908), was a devious despot. (Three years after her death, the Manchu Ching dynasty was itself overthrown in the Xinhai Revolution.) But increasingly, some authors, such as Sterling Seagrave in his biography *Dragon Lady: The Life and Legend of the Last Empress of China,* have presented us with a far more positive view of the empress, arguing that she has been unfairly maligned and, when examined objectively, her actions were reasonable responses to the difficulties that China was then facing. While considering her frequent portrayal as a tyrant, one should bear in mind the traditional Confucian idea (widely held in her day) that women in general, and especially influential women, caused trouble and were not to be trusted. A similar demonization has occurred with Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang dynasty, A.D. 625-705. (It is rather interesting that in the thousands of years of Chinese history, there have been only three reigning empresses: Empress Dowager Lu of the Han dynasty, 194-179 B.C., Wu and Tzu-Hsi.) Tzu-Hsi's full name is quite a mouthful: Empress Xiaoqin Cixi Duanyou Kangyi Zhaoyu Zhuangcheng Shougong Qinxian Chongxi Peitian Xhingsheng Xhian.

A Little-Remembered Crusade

FRA DOLCINO

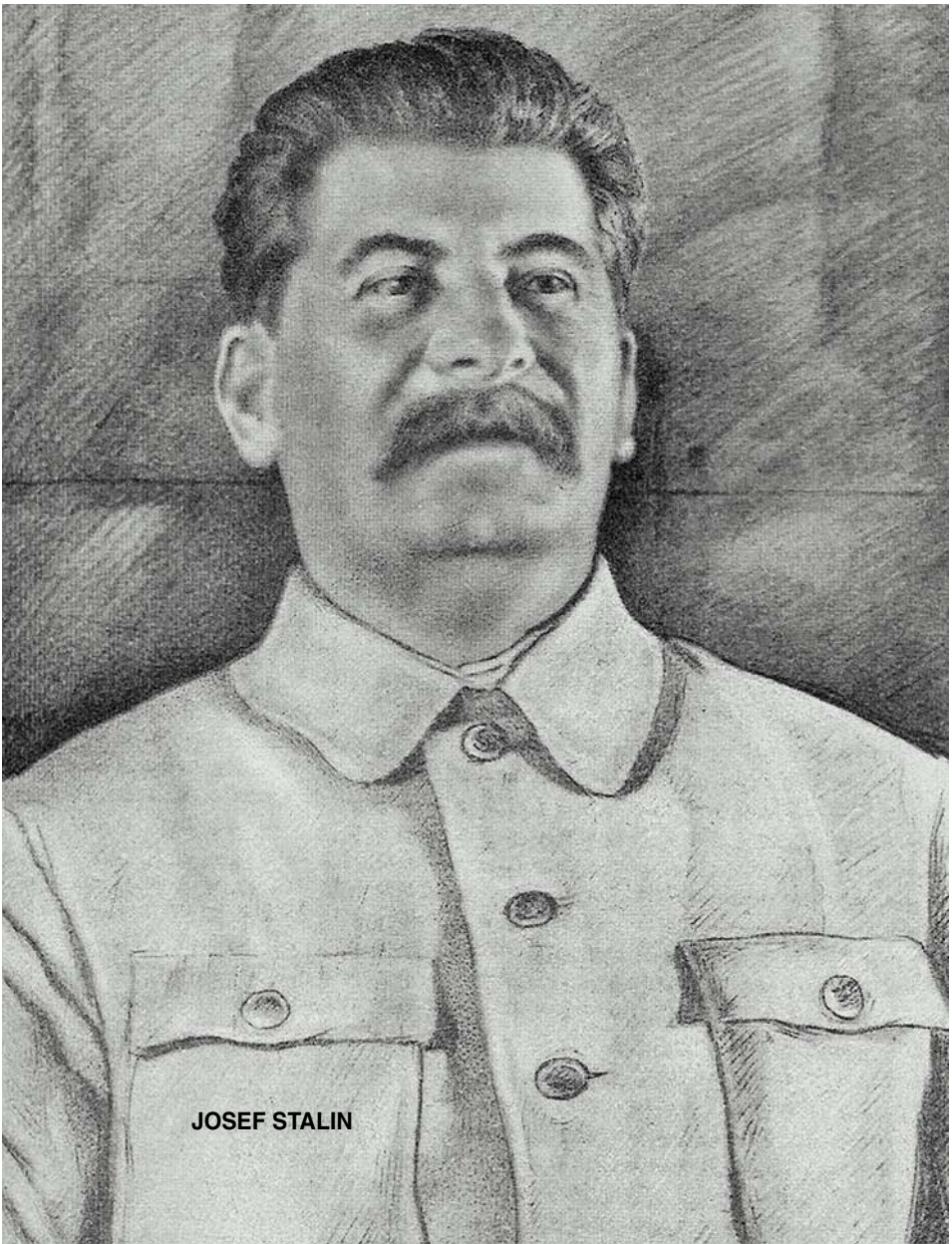
IN 1307, THE SAME YEAR KING PHILIP IV suppressed the Templars in France, another crusade was taking place, in Italy. The Dulcinian movement was a religious movement inspired by the Franciscans' ideals, but its members were branded as heretics. It was led by Fra Dolcino of Novara. The movement began in 1300 when Gherardo Segarelli, founder of the "Apostolics" sect, was burned in Parma. A brutal repression of the movement followed, and followers had to hide to save their lives. Fra Dolcino took over the role of leader of the sect. Pope Clement V in 1306 called for a crusade to crush the movement, and troops from various parts of northern Italy joined the siege of the mountain where the "Dulcinians," as they were now called, were hiding out. The Dulcinians could no longer descend the mountain to find food; but they resisted for a year eating rats, horses, dogs and in some cases resorting to cannibalism. In a final assault in 1307, many (some sources say 800) Dulcinians were killed. They finally surrendered, and 150 of them were captured and later executed. Dolcino was conducted to Vercelli in an open wagon. During the trip, he was tortured with red-hot tongs, his fingers, nose and ears were torn off; his tongue and eyes were extirpated. When they reached Vercelli what was left of him was burned at the stake.

Other Dulcinians survived and dispersed. In the north of Italy there were traces of them up to 1374. Dolcino and the Apostolics become symbols of freedom and emancipation to the present and were never forgotten. In 1907, on the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom, huge celebrations were held and a 36-foot-high obelisk was installed in the place of the Dulcinians' last resistance.

The Gloomy Demon

Lev Mekhlis: Josef Stalin's Hatchet Man

JEWISH HENCHMEN (Lazar Kaganovitch, Lev Mekhlis, Genrikh Yagoda et al.) carried out the biggest "holocaust" in history—Josef Stalin's mass murder of mass millions of his own people. Author Yuri Rubtsov is virtually unknown in the Western world, and even more unknown, if possible, are his books. But the shocking content of those books deserves to be known in America and around the world. What little Westerners know about Lev Mekhlis is wrong, and Rubtsov sets the record straight on this shadowy but important Communist thug.



JOSEF STALIN

BY DANIEL W. MICHAELS

Until the appearance of two recent Russian political biographies by Yuri Rubtsov,[1] too little was known about the specific criminal activities of individual Stalinist henchmen like Lev Zakharovich Mekhlis—one of those shadowy figures that helped eliminate Stalin's political enemies before they could threaten the leader himself. The NKVD and its successor organizations of course controlled security matters in general. But it was Mekhlis's main responsibility, as assigned by Stalin himself, to search out—as a kind of grand inquisitor of the Soviet state—potential political enemies within the Red Army.

At the peak of his power in the period 1937-1945, Stalin appointed him commissar of the army 1st rank, head of the Political Directorate of the Workers and Peasants Red Army (PURKKA), and USSR deputy people's commissar of defense, with the rank of colonel general.[2]

Theoretically the political commissars and the military commanders ran the Red Army jointly. However, the political commissars, who among their other duties (agitation and propaganda) evaluated the officer staff and reported their evaluations through channels and the PURKKA directly to Stalin, were in reality the

true bosses. In effect, the military commanders, including the generals, were at the mercy of the political commissars, the head of whom was Lev Mekhlis.

Mekhlis, born in Odessa in 1889, was a Jew of modest material means and little formal schooling. Although not of proletarian origins, he was nevertheless endowed with an irrepressible revolutionary zeal to which he brought great stamina, boldness, a shrewd intellect, and a born disciple's search for an "infallible" master, whom he eventually found in Stalin. At a very early age he joined the Jewish Social Democratic Workers Party, a Zionist organization, where he was active until 1911 when he was called up to serve in the tsarist army. During World War I (1914-1917) he mostly served on the southwestern front against the Germans and Austrians.

With an abiding hatred of the old tsarist regime and its institutions and a thirst for power, Mekhlis joined the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Communist Party in March 1918 where his "talents" were immediately recognized. He was quickly appointed a political commissar in the Revolutionary Military Council with the power to identify perceived enemies of the state, which is to say, Stalin's enemies. Perhaps because of this hatred, Mekhlis soon became one of Stalin's favorite executioners.

"Mekhlis was one of those subhuman creatures among Stalin's entourage who seemed not just blasé about killing, but who actually enjoyed and boasted of his accomplishments."

'GLOOMY DEMON'

Nicknamed the "Shark" and the "Gloomy Demon" by the dictator's inner circle, Mekhlis was one of those subhuman creatures among Stalin's entourage who seemed not just blasé about killing, but who actually enjoyed and boasted of his accomplishments. He started by murdering former tsarist officers, then progressed to executing captured White Russian officers in the civil war, and culminated with the murder of countless Russian officers in World War II.

In the early 1920s Mekhlis had already proved his worth to Josef Stalin, whom he earlier served as an assistant secretary in the Secretariat of the Central Committee. He remained unquestionably loyal and helpful to Stalin in the many internecine factional Communist feuds and wars (especially against Trotskyites, but also against left- and right-wing deviationists etc) which the latter was engaged in before assuming absolute power.

By 1926-1927, seeing in Mekhlis certain qualities valued by the Communist Party, namely a fanatical belief in Marxism-Leninism, a total absence of any middle class ethical or moral code of behavior, and an innate ruthlessness guaranteed to pave the road ahead, the Central Committee agreed to send the "Shark" to the Communist Academy and the Institute of Red Professors to hone and polish the skills he would need in his future propaganda work. (As in Catholicism, the word "propaganda" is used here in the sense of spreading the true faith.)

In May 1930 Stalin assigned Mekhlis to the editorial office of *Pravda*, which had been run by N.I. Bukharin until 1929. The "Shark" was soon appointed main editor with the task of politically purging the paper of leftover Bukharinites and turning *Pravda* into a mouthpiece for Stalin. During the period of the Great Terror, *Pravda* served to expose and condemn the "heretical" views of Stalin's opposition—L.B. Kamenev, G.Y. Zinovyev and N.I. Bukharin and their followers—and represented Stalin as the true heir of Lenin and sole interpreter of Marxism-Leninism.

In December 1937, with Stalin's full trust and support, the Politburo appointed Mekhlis deputy peoples commissar of the USSR Defense Ministry, army commissar 2nd rank and head of the PURKKA. The "Shark" proved indispensable to Stalin in the purge of the Red Army, wherein he undertook the role of grand inquisitor. Working together with his NKVD colleagues, it is estimated that by the end of 1938 the Red Army had almost been decimated.[3] In 1937-1938 seven of the nine top military figures (Y.B. Gamarnik, I.E. Yakir, V.K. Blyukher, A.S. Bulin, A.I. Yegorov, M.N. Tukhachevsky [TBR Sept./Oct. 2003] and I.P. Uborevich) were declared enemies of the people and participants in a military conspiracy. K.Y. Voroshilov and S.M. Budenny were exonerated.

Marshal Zhukov later wrote that Mekhlis and others had also tried to implicate him. Of 36 highly placed commanders and political officers, 30 were declared enemies of the people. Only 10 of 108 members of the Military Council under the USSR Ministry of Defense escaped punishment. Of the 408 leading military figures arrested in 1937-1938, the Military College of the USSR Supreme Court sentenced 401 to death by firing squad and seven to the Gulag Archipelago. The exact number of lower ranks, estimated in the tens of thousands, also involved in the purge, is not known with certainty, nor is the number of suicides among the accused. Mekhlis, the "Gloomy Demon," presided over this massive Soviet witch-hunt, intended primarily to eliminate politically undesirable elements (political opponents of the paranoid Stalin) from the army.

When, owing to Mekhlis's objectivity and impartiality in these matters, Jewish heads also rolled during the Great Terror and Red Army purge, some highly placed ethnic Russians publicly rejoiced. For example, Gen. Viktor Filatov wrote years later:[4] "Glorious 1937! In that year Stalin finally came to understand that it was Zionism, not Communism,

Josef Stalin: Psychopathic Killer Extraordinary

Premier Josef Stalin—America's ally during World War II—was a psychopathic killer unrivaled by any except perhaps Communist China's Mao Tse Tung. Stalin killed an estimated (no one knows for sure) 20 to 60 million of his fellow countrymen—mostly white Christians—through engineered terror famine in the Ukraine and other provinces of the USSR, through forced labor and exile in Siberia and also summary execution. Below are not "victims of Auschwitz," but piles of corpses that were the result of Stalin's brutal terror famine. (See more in TBR Jan./Feb. 2002.)

Stalin had many ingenious methods for doing away with those Russians who refused to accept the inevitability of his brutal regime. For many it was swift execution—a bullet to the back of the head—and quick interment in mass graves. Above are the exhumed remains of some of Stalin's victims at Kurapaty, a city in what is today Belarus. It is said by some scholars that in 1938 Stalin had incarcerated more than 8 million Christian Russians in his gulag camps. By the time his bloody rule was ended, experts estimate that only 800,000 survivors could be accounted for. For those of you doing the math, that's 7.2 million victims—dwarfing any crimes against the Jews of which Adolf Hitler has been accused.

which was being built in the USSR, and he destroyed it."

After 1937, Suvorov and Kutuzov, Nakhimov and Ushakov, Bogdan Khemelnitskiy and the "Knight in the Tiger Skin" [from the book by Shot'ha Rust'hveli—Ed.] became the national symbols. And the Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians—all those whom the Zionists had wanted to destroy and left to rot in prisons, labeled "nationalist" or "anti-Semite"—returned.

Despite, or perhaps because of, Mekhlis's controversial "cleansing" activities during the period from January 1938 to May 1940, Rubtsov notes, the number of Stalinist-brand Communists increased by a factor of 3.5 to a total of half a million.

According to David I. Ortenberg (as cited by Rubtsov), a friend of Mekhlis and editor of *Krasnaya zvezda*, the newspaper of the Soviet Armed Forces, the "Shark" did not hesitate to use his authority to protect some of his friends, including the deputy head of PURKKA, F.F. Kuznetsov, and Ortenberg himself. Both Mekhlis and Ortenberg, as editors of the major military newspapers, were responsible for publishing much of the hate-filled wartime propaganda, characterized by incitement to murder and rape Germans, supplied by Ilya Ehrenburg and others of his ilk.

Mekhlis had also at times to defend himself. As Rubtsov relates it, in autumn 1938 a letter addressed to Mekhlis, postmarked New York City, arrived in NKVD offices. It was signed "your brother Solomon" and referred to business friends and relatives of Mekhlis in the Big Apple. The "Shark" immediately went to Stalin and (apparently) convinced him that the letter had been sent by provocateurs to discredit him. Nothing more was heard of the matter.

* * *

Because Stalin trusted Mekhlis explicitly as his political commissar to the army, Mekhlis's services were called on in the various wars and military conflicts the Soviet Union was involved in, commencing in the Far East in the later 1930s. Thus, his presence was felt at the Battle of Lake Khasan in July/August 1938; at the Khalkin-Gol River (otherwise known as the "incident at Nomanhan" (See TBR January/February 2003.—Ed.) a year later (May-August 1939); in the western areas of Ukraine and Belorussia in September 1939; in Bessarabia and the northern Bukovina in June 1940; and the invasion of Finland in 1939-1940.

Mekhlis's reports, evaluations and recommendations sent to Stalin concerning the performance of the Soviet generals and the effectiveness of the political officers in Finland and

the Far East resulted in many executions. For his services, Mekhlis was promoted to army commissar 1st rank.

On the eve of the German invasion, June 21, 1941, Stalin appointed Mekhlis head of the main directorate of political propaganda while retaining his position of deputy peoples commissar of USSR defense and member of the Military Council of the Western Front.

When the war broke out the following day, Rubtsov maintains, Mekhlis was among the first of the dictator's closest associates to meet for consultations with Stalin. As one after the other of the Soviet armies disintegrated before the German onslaught, Stalin authorized Mekhlis to use whatever force (i.e., terror) was needed to consolidate the front.

Mekhlis was to show his indefatigable energy and devotion to Stalin throughout the course of the war. He remained a member of the military council of the 6th Army until September 1942, after which he undertook analogous responsibilities on nine fronts: Voronezh (September-October 1942); Volkhov (October 1942 to April 1943; Bryansk (July-October 1943); Baltic (October–December 1943; Western (December-April 1944); Belorussian (April-July 1944) and Ukrainian (August 1944-May 11, 1945).

Another reason for Mekhlis's many transfers from front to front during the war was the fact that his presence was resented and unwanted by most military commanders who saw him as a threat to their own commands.

"Mekhlis was transferred from front to front during the war because his presence was unwanted by most military commanders who saw him as a threat to their own commands."

He was considered by most of the military to be personally obnoxious and odious, extremely dangerous, drunk with power and destructive of unit morale. Mekhlis was feared and despised by almost every member of the military.

From the Bryansk front, a Maj. Koroteyev wrote the Central Committee about Mekhlis:

> They (the troops) fear him, they do not like him, and in fact they hate him. This hatred originates from the news about the sharp punishments and executions meted out by Mekhlis in the south, on the Voronezh and Volkhov fronts, that has reached us.

The writer Konstantin Simonov described Mekhlis:

> He was cold and merciless to the depths of soul . . . like a hatchet that falls on a neck because that is what a hatchet does. Even if the hatchet does not want to chop off a head, it cannot stop in mid-air because it is the nature of a hatchet to chop.

Early in the war, Mekhlis, owing to his arrogance and exaggerated self-confidence, overstepped his authority and incurred the wrath (short lived, however) of his patron Stalin. The "Shark" had arrived in the Crimea on January 20, 1942, to stiffen Red Army resistance to the German assault on the peninsula. Mekhlis immediately issued his standard orders that panic mongers and deserters were to be shot on the spot. Soldiers guilty of self-inflicted wounds were to be shot in front of the assembled military unit. When the "Shark" took it upon himself to assume the role of military commander, disaster followed. Gen. Manstein's forces, with half the strength of the defending Russian forces, overran the entire Crimean area, taking the heavily defended Sevastopol as well. Stalin was so furious at the debacle that he chastised Mekhlis and ordered him not to interfere with the strictly military concerns of the unit commanders.

In his memoirs after the war, the people's commissar of the navy, Adm. Kuznetsov, reported that in April 1942 on the Crimean Front:

> There was total confusion . . . [t]he commander of the Crimean Front, D.T. Kozlov, was in Mekhlis's pocket. Mekhlis was literally interfering in all operational plans. The chief of staff, P.P. Verchnyy, did not know whose orders to carry out—the commander's or Mekhlis's. Even Marshal S.M. Budenny couldn't do anything about it. Mekhlis said that he was taking orders directly from Stalin. When the situation in Kerch became catastrophic, Mekhlis tried to switch the blame to A.S. Frolov. He demanded that I courtmartial Frolov; otherwise he would have him shot. I told him he couldn't do that.

At the end of the war, Mekhlis found himself near Prague. In a letter written home in April 1945, the "Gloomy Demon" wrote:

> I have seen and have already been in the accursed German land. Now the Germans understand what war is and what Russian hatred is. They are all ready to declare themselves Communists or Poles. But it won't help.

Shortly after the war, in February 1946, Stalin again entrusted the "Shark" with another important position, that of USSR minister of state control, in which he was empowered by Stalin to exercise his inquisitorial and inspectorate skills to search out corruption and irregularities in the Soviet

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Three of Josef Stalin's Top Henchmen . . .

Above, three of Josef Stalin's overly willing executioners. Left, Lev Mekhlis, a Jew, was an incompetent military leader but a revolutionary zealot and a Stalin sycophant. He murdered tens of thousands of those he deemed disployal. Lazar Kaganovich was also Jewish. He was Stalin's brother-in-law, chief advisor and trouble-shooter. He is said to be responsible for the deaths of 20 million Russians. Genrikh Yagoda, also Jewish, far right, was head of the NKVD (Soviet secret police) from 1934 to 1936. He is thought to have ordered the killing of more people in a shorter amount of time than the Nazis were ever accused of killing.

economy. As Stalin's master "control freak," Mekhlis was empowered to inspect the activities of all governmental and societal organizations. In accepting the position, Mekhlis made it clear to one and all in *Pravda* that Generalissimo Stalin had personally appointed him for the position of minister of state control:

> I shall handle with renewed vigor all questions, as promulgated by Comrade Stalin, dealing with the need to husband the people's money for the further growth of the economy, to establish a tight economic regime, and to eliminate all and every waste, theft or embezzlement of state financial and material assets.

Mekhlis held this position until December 1949, when he suffered a severe stroke followed by a heart attack, which for all intents and purposes put an end to his active political life. He died in February 1953, three weeks before Stalin's own death. With Stalin's authorization, Mekhlis was honored with full funerary honors and his remains interred in the Kremlin wall, as later were Stalin's. The dictator's esteem for Mekhlis during their final years was further evidenced after the "Shark's" crippling stroke when he was unable to attend the XIXth Party Congress in 1950. Stalin insisted that the name of Lev Zakharovich Mekhlis be kept on the list of members of the Central Committee even though Mekhlis was hopelessly incapacitated.

As a politician, Rubtsov maintains, Mekhlis was more of an opportunist and an eclectic than a Marxist, but as a party functionary he was very effective, displaying initiative, persistence and conviction. Morally, of course, the "Shark" was totally unprincipled, dishonest and incapable or unwilling to distinguish between truth and lies. Mekhlis in his public life displayed no humane instincts, no conscience, no sentimentality, no feelings, and no regrets—nothing human. Rubtsov writes:

> L.Z. Mekhlis was often oblivious to moral categories, as though they were incompatible with Realpolitik, and reviewed the results of his activities exclusively from a utilitarian point of view: did they satisfy Stalin's directives, and did they serve the interests of the political elite, who for the first time were faced by a real threat from the outside? Under the extremely difficult wartime conditions everything revolved around punishments and executions administered without due process, with an already high state of tension in society increasing, and with some segments of the country no longer believing in the slogans promulgated from the party and the Soviet state.

Rubtsov refers to Mekhlis as a member of Stalin's "shadow" sub elite, all of whom owed their positions and powers to the dictator. Besides his nicknames of the "Shark" and the "Gloomy Demon" used by other members of the Stalinist sub elite, Mekhlis was also referred to as "Stalin's Hatchet Man" and "Stalin's Club," all names identifying him as the dictator's agent of repression and doctrinal enforcer. Others of the sub-elite who were also associated specifically with repressive measures and whom Stalin retained until his death were L.P. Beria, A.Y. Vyshinskiy, V.V. Ul'rikh and M.F. Shiryatov.

In the 1920s and 1930s Mekhlis was but one of the many Jews who surrounded and ardently supported the dictator. But by 1953, after successive Stalinist purges of the government, the only Jews that still remained in the dictator's esteem and high office, and whose loyalty to Stalin was still intact, were Mekhlis and Kaganovich. With the establishment of Israel and Stalin's fear of the close ties among Jews living in the United States, Israel and the Soviet Union, the dictator became increasing suspicious of Jewish loyalty to the USSR. When he instigated the Doctors Plot, it was generally believed that the dictator was about to launch a major purge of many of the remaining highly placed Jews in the USSR.

According to Rubtsov, only by convincing Stalin that he, Mekhlis, was a Communist first and a Jew second ("I am a Communist, not a Jew"), was the "Shark" able to remain in the dictator's favor until his death.

Rubtsov insists Stalin [who himself may have been

Jewish—Ed.] had always been a crypto "anti-Semite" and that the Doctors Plot proves this. Stalin believed that certain doctors were systematically murdering his closest associates and planned to murder him. Few Kremlinologists today believe that Jewish physicians actually planned the murder of some of their Nomenklatura patients, although Stalin's death does deserve closer scrutiny. It is true that more than a few Soviet notables died while under the care of leading Soviet physicians. But it is also true that the standards of Soviet medicine have always been quite low. Some of the suspicious deaths may simply have resulted from malpractice.

Rubtsov also subscribes to the theory that the purge of the Red Army in the 1930s decapitated the Red Army, resulting in its poor showing in World War II. Viktor Suvorov, among others, has ably refuted that contention.

While it is undoubtedly true that the leadership of the Stavka[5] and Red Army officers' staff during World War II was quite deficient and lacking in professionalism, it remains problematical as to whether the terror aimed at their own forces by the army commissars contributed much to the final victory. Even when Stalin was forced by adverse circumstances to appeal to his armies to defend the Motherland or *Matushka Rus* and pull back the horns of the commissars, most of the workers and peasants in the Red Army also knew their country had become a land of gulags, forced collectivization, alien Communist commissars and endless hardships. ❖

The photo above shows a victim of Stalin's "Great Famine," the purposeful starvation of millions. The website www.ukraine.be lists deaths from starvation and exposure during 1932 and 1933 alone at about 7 million.

ENDNOTES:

[1]Yuri Rubtsov. *Alter Ego Stalina* (based on declassified archival documents). Svonnitsa-MG, Moscow, 1999, 302 pp. and *Iz-za spiny vozhdya: politicheskaya i voyennaya deyatel'nost L.Z. Mekhlisa* (*Behind the Leader's Back; The Political and Military Activities of L.Z. Mekhlis*), Kompaniya Ritm, Moscow, 2003, 253 pp. Rubtsov cites D. A. Volkogonov's political biography of Stalin as containing much useful information on Mekhlis.

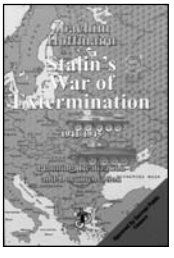
[2]A unique feature of the Soviet armed forces was the imposition on it of the Political Administration of the Red Army (PURKKA, later renamed GlavPUR). This was the Communist Party organization for which the military commissars worked. Initially every commander from battalion level on up to the Army High Command had a commissar as a partner.

[3]This evaluation of the effect of the purge on the effectiveness of the Red Army has been refuted by Viktor Suvorov in his *Ochishcheniye: Zachem Stalin obezglavil svoyu armiyu?* (*The Purge: Why Did Stalin Decapitate his Army?* Firma Publishing House, ACT, 1998.)

[4]Viktor Filatov. *Glorious 1937! Zavtra*, Sept. 9, 1997.

[5]Stavka is short for the *Shtab vierhovnogo komandovania*, or "General Headquarters" of the armed forces in late imperial Russia and in the Soviet Union. The term may be applied to staff, as well as to location.—Ed.

Suggested Reading on Stalin, Communism, FDR's Red Record



Stalin's War of Extermination: 1941-1945. By Joachim Hoffmann. Hitler, aware of Stalin's plans to overrun Europe, launched Operation Barbarossa to thwart the massive Soviet invasion. However, the rest of Europe stood by and, inevitably, disaster befell Germany; all of Eastern Europe was enslaved by Stalin. *The Berliner Morgenpost* stated it succinctly when writing: "Stalin conceived and accomplished his war against the German Reich as an extermination war of conquest. To this end, Hoffmann furnishes overwhelming data from German and Soviet archives." #282, hardback, 415 pages, ***$39.95***.

The Black Book of Communism. A team of French historians chronicles the crimes of bloody Communism wherever it has attained power in the world. The number of victims it has left behind boggles the mind and that is certainly not being taught at universities or high schools. The authors put the toll at 100 million. This big volume became a bestseller in Europe when first published in 1997. A must-read for all who want to see the real legacy of Communism. #235, hardback, 1,120 pages, ***$42.50***.

The Roosevelt Red Record & Its Background. First published in 1936 by arch Communist fighter Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, this incredibly well-documented book explores the rampant Communist infiltration of America in the 1930s & 1940s through the programs and administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. If you are an FDR fan, this book will shock and amaze you with the number of Communist organizations and politicians supported by FDR and his wife during their time in power. A real shocker! Softcover, 439 pages, #383, ***$15*** minus 10% for TBR subscribers.

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Stopping the Unstoppable **Soviet Juggernaut**

Establishment historian confirms & documents Revisionist findings on 'Operation Barbarossa'

ONCE AGAIN IT IS DEMONSTRATED THAT "Uncle Joe" Stalin was not the peace-loving politician that has been portrayed by generations of "court historians," but rather an aggressive, expansionist megalomaniac and a homicidal dictator. Analysis of scads of newly uncovered secret information contained in documents from formerly closed Soviet archives reveals that Stalin was plotting to wage offensive war against Europe. For this plan to succeed, however, Germany had to be debilitated. This fully conforms to the offensive military doctrine of the Soviets that called for "deep operations" into enemy territory. There can be no doubt Stalin was developing detailed plans for attacking Hitler's Germany either in 1941 or 1942. As it happens, Hitler managed to strike first against Soviet forces that were not quite ready to launch their imminent attack. . . .

Soviet Grand Strategy Thwarted By Surprise German Military Strike

By Daniel W. Michaels

The monograph *Stalin's Other War: Soviet Grand Strategy, 1939-1941* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., New York & Oxford, 204 pages) by Albert L. Weeks,[1] a distinguished American historian specializing in Soviet affairs, is undoubtedly the best U.S. account of the diplomatic and military prelude to the Soviet-German war on the Eastern Front. Essentially, the author confirms and further documents the long-standing Revisionist view that it was actually Stalin, not Hitler, who had armed and prepared the Soviet Union for a preemptive strike against Germany, most probably for early July 1941, but was beaten to the punch by the German preemptive attack on June 22. Weeks is professor emeritus of International Relations at New York University.

Unlike early Revisionists, Weeks had the full cooperation of the present Russian government, prominent Russian historians, as well as a few American historians. Weeks draws most heavily from the works of: Pavel N. Bobylev,[2] a military historian at the RF Ministry of Defense Institute of Military History; Mikhail I. Mel'tyukhov[3] of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Documents and Archival Matters; A.N. Yakovlev's (ed.) two-volume compilation of documents; the State Archive of the Russian Federation; the Russian State Military Archive; the Russian State Archive on the Russian Economy; the Center for the Collection of Contemporary Documents; and the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Documents and Archival Affairs. Many Russian Revisionists (e.g., V.L. Doroshenko, T.S. Bushuyev), whose views are little known in America, are also cited.

Weeks logically first reviews: Soviet prewar expansionist ideology as a blueprint to future action; the Soviets'—especially Stalin's—pro-German prewar posture; the transition of Soviet military thinking from defensive actions to offensive; the outbreak of the war; and Stalin's reaction to it.

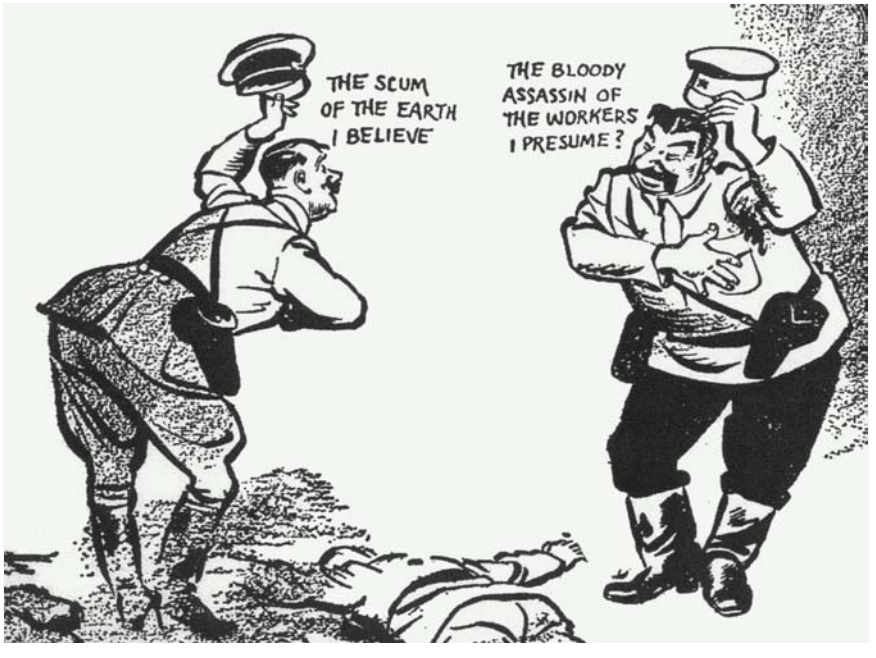
It is apparent from Weeks's text that Stalin much preferred an alliance with Germany. He totally distrusted the British because they obviously were trying to involve the USSR in a war with Germany. Having declared war on Germany, the British could not possibly have troubled the Germans on the Continent unless they had either or both the Soviet Union and the United States on their side. Without citing dates, Weeks quotes Hitler's and Stalin's opinions of each other:

Hitler: (prophetically as it turned out):

> It is not Germany that will turn Bolshevist, but Bolshevism will become a sort of National Socialism. Besides, there is more that binds us to Bolshevism than separates us. There is, above all, genuine revolutionary feeling. . . . On the whole, there are only three great statesmen in the world: Stalin, Mussolini and myself. Mussolini, the weakest, has not been able to break either the power of the crown or of the church. Stalin and I are the only ones that see only the future.

Stalin:

In the case of an armed showdown between Germany and the Western democracies, the interests of the Soviet Union and of Germany would certainly run parallel to each other. The Soviet Union would



The cordial relations Germany and the Soviet Union shared for a brief period in 1939 were bound to fail, once Hitler discovered Stalin was massing troops and materiel on Germany's borderlands. In the cartoon at left, Hitler and Stalin meet over a corpse. Hitler says, "The scum of the Earth, I believe." Stalin responds, "The bloody assassin of the workers I presume?"

By the time 1941 rolled around, German intelligence had verified that Stalin was deploying massive numbers of troops and materiel along Russia's western borders with Europe. The invasion was scheduled for July 1941. Knowing this, Hitler quickly assembled an invasion force and attacked the USSR on June 22. In the initial German assault which launched Operation Barbarossa, the Nazis captured more than a million Soviet army troops. Soviet propaganda called it a sneak attack, but Red newsreels—and Allied propagandists—failed to mention that had Hitler not attacked, Poland and Germany would have been overrun, and the rest of Europe left undefended against "the Mongol hordes." At left, after Hitler's attack on the USSR, the British lion and the Soviet bear, with due trepidation, united against "the common foe."

> never stand for Germany's getting into a difficult position. [After the German attack]: [T]ogether with the Germans we would have been invincible.

For the Bolsheviks, diplomacy was seen simply as part of the capitalist superstructure. Stalin, as Weeks quotes him, had a realistic view of diplomacy:

> Words must have no relation to actions, otherwise what kind of diplomacy is it? Words are one thing, actions another. Nice words are a mask for concealment of bad deeds. Sincere diplomacy is no more possible than dry water or wooden iron.

Most telling of the Soviet Union's plan to attack Germany and the documents from which author Weeks most cites as proof of Soviet intentions to attack are: Stalin's Third Speech, May 5, 1941; the May 15, 1941 Memorandum of the Peoples Commissar of Defense and the Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army to J. Stalin; and Stalin's Speech to the Politburo of August 19, 1939.

Weeks divides historians into two groups, i.e., (1) the "offensists," or those that believe Stalin was indeed planning his own preemptive invasion of Germany and Europe but whose plans were untimely upset by the German invasion and (2) the "defensists," those who maintain that Stalin had no such intention but that he trusted Hitler to the extent that Barbarossa caught him and the Soviet Union completely off guard and unprepared for war. This view, now wholly disproved, had been accepted in the English-speaking world almost without question for half a century. The most articulate of the defensists, Weeks notes, is Gabriel Gorodetsky, an Anglo-Jewish researcher in Tel Aviv.

Viktor Suvorov, a Soviet defector, blew open the issue with a series of provocative books on World War II, starting with *Icebreaker* and followed by *Mobilization Day, The Last Republic, Purge: Stalin Decapitates the Red Army* and *Zhukov*. Among the increasingly impressive list of offensist scholars, Weeks names Joachim Hoffmann, R.C. Raack, Ernest Topitsch, Robert Conquest, Robert C. Tucker, Edvard Radzinsky, Pavel Bobylev, Aleksandr Nekrich, V.A. Nevezhin, and M.I. Mel'tyukhov. Mel'tyukhov admits that Stalin indeed schemed to conquer all of Europe but that, if his plans had succeeded, it would have been good for the world because it would have stabilized the entire area.

Because Gorodetsky completely ignores Stalin's speech of

May 5 and denies that Stalin had ever seen, let along endorsed, the May 15 Memorandum by the Red Army Staff officers, Weeks rejects Gorodetsky's position and concentrates on the offensist school.

Buttressing his position, the author first cites a high-ranking contemporary official, former Russian first deputy minister of defense, Andrey A. Kokoshin, who describes Soviet military thought from 1917 to 1991 as follows:

> The offensive character of Soviet military strategy was quite obvious. [As the 1939 Red Army Manual states], the Red Army will be the most offensist army of all armies that have ever been offensively oriented. We will wage an offensive, carrying the conflict into the territory of the adversary. . . . with the aim of the total defeat of the enemy.

The plan to invade Germany and revolutionize the rest of Europe originated with Lenin. Stalin, like Lenin, wanted Germany in the Communist camp, either by fomenting an internal revolution or by *force majeure.* Stalin knew full well that no stable, independent country would voluntarily elect to become Communist. Weeks notes that in a 1920 stenogram Lenin predicted that "with Poland 'Sovietized,' the Red Army would be deployed at Germany's very borders. Thus positioned it could then wage an offensive war against the West, eventually carrying liberation war into the whole of Europe."

"The plan to invade Germany and revolutionize the rest of Europe originated with Lenin. Stalin, like Lenin, wanted Germany in the Communist camp, by revolution or by force."

V.L. Doroshenko, commenting on T.S. Bushuyev's discovery of the secret text of Stalin's speech to the Politburo delivered on August 19, 1939, writes:

> Stalin calculated that the war, started by Germany, would lead to the downfall of the European order. Meantime, he would remain out of the war for a time, entering it at the most opportune moment. Stalin's plans were not only to conquer Eastern Europe but also to help bring about a Communist revolution in France by going at the very least as far as the English Channel.

The critical sentence in the May 15 memorandum reads:

> In order to prevent an initial attack by the Wehrmacht while also destroying the German army, we consider it necessary that under no conditions should the initiative for starting hostilities be given to the German army. It is necessary to preempt the enemy in deploying for attack and to attack the German army at the moment when it is at the stage of deploying for attack and is as yet unable to organize its front and coordinate all of its forces.

To which Bobylev adds that the post-May 15 moves by the Red Army signify that the decision was made "to prepare the Red Army for launching a preemptive strike, which was considered above and beyond any considerations of any offensive that might come from the German side."

To be sure, it is not absolutely certain that Stalin did endorse the May 15 memorandum. Neither Zhukov nor Vasil'yevsky, the signatories, is clear about this and neither is considered reliable with regard to the truth. Russian troops, as Weeks notes, were constantly being indoctrinated in a strongly offensist manner. Weeks cites historian V.A. Nevezhin as asserting that such an offensist thrust in training would have been impossible without Stalin's approval.

As further evidence that Stalin planned to launch an offensive operation, Weeks cites Viktor A. Anfilov as stating that fundamental mistakes were made by the Soviet Command before the war, the most crucial being "the failure to adopt defensive measures because of mistaken offensist ideological pressures and Stalin's penchant for making unwise decisions concerning the deployment of the Red Army along the western frontier on the eve of the German attack." In other words, the Red Army was deployed solely for attack.

Weeks briefly reviews rather significant war games that were held in the Soviet Union in 1940-41. Gen. Zhukov headed the "Blue" attacking forces against the "Red" defending armies commanded by Gen. Grigori M. Shtern. It is noteworthy that Zhukov's attack force had 3,516 tanks and 3,336 aircraft or about the same number the Germans actually employed in Barbarossa. The defending forces were assigned 8,811 tanks and 5,652 aircraft, although superior to the attacking force, not anywhere near the actual 24,000 tanks and 10,000 or so aircraft available to the Soviets on June 22. Before even the Soviet-German war began in June 1941, Soviet tank production was already up to 12,000 a year, with a total of 24,000 reached by summer 1941. Soviet production of tanks, planes and field guns at the time exceeded the production of all the major Western countries combined.[4]

As a result of these war games, Stalin in February 1941, appointed Zhukov to head the General Staff. Zhukov had also tested blitzkrieg tactics earlier in the battle of Khalkin-Gol in Manchuria in the late 1930s.

Weeks recalls that Stalin himself in his radio address to the nation on July 3, 1941, denied that the Red Army was unprepared for the German attack, saying, "the Red Army was in complete readiness for war and was merely awaiting the signal to act since its armies were still in the process of mobilizing and deploying forces to the Western front."

After citing the many arguments of the defensists and offensists, Weeks himself finally concludes:

> First, that on the eve of the German attack of June 22, 1941, the Red Army was indeed configured more for waging offensive rather than defensive war. Second, what the researchers have produced is a pattern of Red Army deployments and concentrations of troops along the Soviet western frontier in spring 1941 [i.e., before the German attack] that strongly suggests that the General Staff and Stalin were planning eventually to get the preemptive jump on the Wehrmacht. . . . As it turned out, the Germans got the jump on the Soviets.
>
> And, third, an increasing number of new Russian historians is opting for the offensist interpretation as to the war planning of Stalin and his Red Army General Staff on the eve of Barbarossa.

Over 60 years ago, in the spring of 1941, the German High Command and intelligence service determined that the Soviet Union was in the process of a massive buildup of forces on the European border and that these forces were deployed in an offensive posture. Rather than wait for the blow to fall, German forces attacked before the Soviets had completed their full deployment. On trial at Nuremberg, German Gens. Jodl and Keitel tried to explain the buildup to an unsympathetic court and why that fateful decision to attack had to be made quickly. They were hanged for their efforts. Hitler also described the Soviet buildup and U.S. assistance to Russia in his declaration of grievances against the United States, but the victors write the history.

Did the Soviet build-up along the German border justify waging pre-emptive war? In this case, Hitler's intelligence was correct; the Soviets were positioning weapons of mass destruction and troops on Germany's borderlands and only a swift, well-coordinated and massive attack could stop the Soviet juggernaut from overrunning most of Europe. Even Hitler's greatest detractors should thank him for launching Operation Barbarossa and thus saving Europe for a few more years from Soviet domination. ❖

MOROZOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

This photo, taken in May of 1945, shows Soviet Private Mikhail Makarov looking at the destroyed Reichstag building in Berlin. Despite the best efforts of Adolf Hitler and his legions, the Soviets—who could no longer be controlled by the Western Allies—brutally invaded Europe, subjugated and repressed millions of central and eastern Europeans for decades.

ENDNOTES:

[1]Albert L. Weeks has studied Soviet Russia for more than 50 years. He guest-lectured at the West Point Military Academy and taught at New York University for over 25 years until he retired in 1989. Weeks is the author of several books, including: *The First Bolshevik: A Political Biography of Peter Tkachev*; *The Other Side of Coexistence*; *An Analysis of Russian Foreign Policy*; *The Soviet Nomenklatura*; *Soviet and Communist Quotations*; and the most recent, *Russia's Life-Saver: Lend-Lease Aid to the USSR in World War II*.

[2]P.N. Bobylev, *Tochku v diskussii stavit' rano. K voprosu o planirovanii v general'nom shtabe RKKA vosmozhnoy voiny s Germaniyey v 1940-1941* ("Calling an Early Halt to the Discussion about the Problem in the General Staff of the RKKA on Planning a Possible War with Germany in 1940-1941"), Otechestvennaya istoriya, No. 6, 1992, 18-19, 41-64.

[3]M.I. Mel'tyukhov, *Upushchenniy shans Stalina: Sovetskiy soyuz i bor'ba za Evropu* (*Stalin's Lost Opportunity: The Soviet Union and the Battle for Europe, 1939-1941*, Veche Publisher, Moscow, 2000, 600 pp.

[4]Ellsworth Raymond, *The Soviet State*, 96. Weeks cites Raymond who was in charge of analyzing the Soviet economy in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the late 1930s. He was regarded as one of the best-informed experts on Soviet war planning in the West. He advised on Lend-Lease aid to Russia. One can only wonder why, knowing of the already high armaments production in the USSR, he encouraged the U.S. government to ship more.

DANIEL W. MICHAELS was for over 40 years a translator of Russian and German texts for the Department of Defense, the last 20 years of which (1972-1993), he was with the Naval Maritime Intelligence Center. He is the author of various scientific reports and bibliographies in geo- and astrophysics and a contributor of book reviews and articles to geographical and historical periodicals.

Germany's Attempts to Create A Barrier Against the USSR

IN THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT from Spanish historian Joaquin Bochaca's *The Crimes of the 'Good Guys'*, we learn Hitler's true goals and means respecting eastern and southeastern Europe.

BY JOAQUIN BOCHACA
TRANSLATED BY MARGARET HUFFSTICKLER

The goal of Adolf Hitler from January 1933 to July of 1939, the last summer of peace, was this: a strong Germany, which would liberate itself from the worst hindrances imposed by the Versailles Treaty, and which would manage a coalition of states attracted into its economic orbit by virtue of its advantageous policy of barter, free of the City of London's globally imposed gold standard.

Geographically next to Germany in July 1939 was the former Czechoslovakia, an artificial, multi-ethnic entity put together in 1919 by the Versailles Treaty in Paris. It was redistributed by the Reich in spring of 1939:

- Hungarians of Czechoslovakia back to Hungary;
- Slavs to Poland;
- The German-speaking Sudetenland back to Germany;
- An autonomous state for the Slovaks, united politically and economically to Germany;
- Another autonomous state for the Transcarpathian Ruthenians (ethnic Ukrainians), an entity linked to Germany and representing a center of attraction for the Ukrainians, who since a brief freedom from 1918 to 1922 were back under Soviet rule and miserable.

There were also the economic tributaries of Germany:

- Hungary;
- Bulgaria;
- Denmark;
- Three Baltic states—Estonia, Lappland and Finland;
- Yugoslavia; and naturally
- Italy with its new protectorate of Albania.

It was a German "Common Market" for most of Europe between the French and Soviet borders.

Oil- and food-rich Romania, in spite of King Carol, whose Jewish girlfriend Magda Elena Lupescu ("Wolf" in Romanian) opposed it, was nevertheless being steadily incorporated into this political-economical complex. So was a former WWI ally, Turkey, despite a certain reluctance, owing to English influence. But the latter did not outweigh the geopolitical reality:

- A booming German economy, hungry for trade and resources, offering reliable, well-priced, cutting-edge goods to its underdeveloped neighbors;
- Skillful German diplomacy; and
- Germany's military role as a shield against the Soviet bear.

Until the signing of the (subsequently worthless) Anglo-French military "blank check"[1] of March 31, 1939, the integration of Poland into this German bloc—to the immense benefit of all parties concerned—was fully expected. The "blank check" sent Hitler's eastern plan to the devil.

"Poland was necessary to Hitler's vision of the East; it could join the solid north-south wall of pressure that was beginning to solidify against the USSR from Scandinavia to the Black Sea."

Poland was necessary to Hitler's vision of the East, albeit not as a military ally, since its specific gravity from a military standpoint would hardly slow the Red army. But Poland could be cooperative at least as a transit base, and join the otherwise solid north-south wall of pressure that was beginning to solidify against the Soviet Union from Scandinavia to the Black Sea.

Poland not only split the line that blocked off the Soviet Union, but also aroused the animadversion of the Lithuanians and, above all, of the Ukrainians—a great and numerous Slavic people, a key to Soviet industry and food supplies and the trump card of the Hitlerian eastern plan.

Without the "blank check" given to the leaders in Warsaw (which, in the end, Britain and France did not honor) the centrally located Poland would have been incorporated into Hitler's eastern plan, and her differences with the Lithuanians

German troops invade Poland, September 1, 1939.

and Ukrainians would undoubtedly have been resolved, compensating Poland for the loss of the autonomous regions of Galicia and Vilnia with Polish areas inside Belarus. (The competition between Poles, Ukrainians and Lithuanians for Vilnia and Galicia went back centuries; the inhabitants of that area of Poland were mostly not Polish, but Ukrainian or "Rus."[2])

The *Drang nach Osten* was, then, an orientation of Germany's politics toward the East, once the Reich's outstanding differences with the West over the German-speaking Saarland, Rhineland, Sudetenland and Austria had been resolved. It was not a plan of military conquest; it was an economic-political plan (and a model for today's NATO and the European Union) that could perhaps have military consequences at its point of maximum tension. It was a question, basically, of eliminating Bolshevism—breaking this sword of Damocles that hung over the peoples of Europe.

Hitler understood that the USSR, limited to its own frontiers and without the possibility of ideological penetration among its neighbors, would mummify, at least on the political plane.

Fenced off economically as well, since neither Germany nor Japan, with all their respective political satellites, would trade with the USSR, the hated regime installed in Moscow by Big Capitalism would no longer have any source of subsistence except direct financing, i.e., a permanent subsidy by the Washington plutocrats. Obviously this could not be a long-term solution because Roosevelt and his brain trust could not exist eternally, and there was growing opposition in America to their pro-Soviet policy. Marxism, in practice, had turned out to be a fiasco without precedent in history.

Taking into account all these facts, Hitler organized the overall lines of his policy toward the East. But it was possible that before foundering, the Bolshevism that had been installed over Christian Russia would resort to war, the *ultima ratio regum,* the last argument of kings. ❖

ENDNOTES:

[1]The "blank check" was an agreement of military support, an unconditional guarantee from England and France that they would defend Poland in case of conflict with a hostile "European power." A secret protocol in the pact (little known even today) specified that the term "European power," as used in the pact, referred only to Germany. No wonder England and France did not declare war on the Soviet Union when it invaded Poland from the East just weeks after the German invasion.—Ed.

[2]"Rus" referred in medieval history originally to the Viking word (related to English), for "to row." It came to mean the dragon-boat rowing Swedish Vikings whose princely descendants, the Ruriks, ruled many eastern Slavic areas from 862 to 1598. Others say it means "horse," like in "wal-rus," a reference to the ancient horsemen of the Russian steppes.—Ed.

JOAQUIN BOCHACA, ESQ. is undoubtedly the premier Revisionist author in the Spanish language world, which features Revisionist writers virtually unknown to English-speakers. Bochaca, an attorney with a hard-hittingprose, is also a literary theorist and translator of Ezra Pound from the English and Hermann Hesse from the German. He also speaks and translates French, but above all else, this Barcelona resident is a lover of Catalan and of his native Catalonia.

This and other valuable articles by Mr. Bochaca have been translated by ***MISS MARGARET HUFFSTICKLER***, a linguist fluent in several European languages. She is also a gifted vocalist who performed at several packed venues recently while on a tour of Hungary.

The Siege of Budapest

Hungarian nationalists, Waffen-SS fight to delay Soviet steamroller; Red atrocities in Budapest part of approved Stalinist policy

TODAY FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE of the fact that without fierce and determined resistance by the defending Hungarian and German forces of Budapest, who held out from December 24, 1944 until February 12, 1945, all of Western Europe could have been overrun by the gargantuan Soviet military.

BY GUSTAV VERES

Before the siege of Budapest at Christmastime in 1944, the political conditions that existed among members of the Axis alliance can be characterized as less than ideal. In August, Romania, which had been Germany's ally, suddenly switched sides and attacked the Germans.

In 1944, at the Klessheim conference, the regent of Hungary, Miklós Horthy, asked Adolf Hitler to let Hungary withdraw from the war. The regent, who had liberated Hungary from the bloody terror of Szamuelli's and Kun's Communist dictatorship back in 1919, had lost faith in an Axis victory and thought a stance of neutrality would save his country from further ruination.

Hitler, however, would not have it. He admonished Horthy and ordered the German High Command to execute the already preplanned Operation Margarete, which was effected by March 19, 1944. It was a bloodless, more or less amicable occupation of Hungary, aiming to reinforce the country and its faith in the German military, and further, to ensure that Hungary remain in the alliance.

On October 15 the regent's younger son Miki was lured to a meeting at a private residence to discuss alternative plans. Having been monitored by the SS-*Sicherheitsdienst*, the young Horthy was intercepted and arrested. Soon thereafter the regent abdicated and transferred all powers to a much younger man than himself, Ferenc Szálasi. The latter, a national socialist leader, whose party, the Arrow Cross Party/Hungarist Movement, had received 39% of the national vote in 1939, became the last constitutional prime minister and assumed the temporary title of "National Leader." Unlike Horthy, Szálasi and his cabinet believed a final victory against the Soviets was still possible and reorganized and totally mobilized the defenses of the then still Axis-controlled part of the country. He wasted no time and required a high degree of discipline and full cooperation of the civilian population in the war effort.

FERENC SZÁLASI

The news of brutality, rape and murder by the advancing Soviets reached the Hungarian capital like wildfire and increased the determination of the defending forces and the population to hold out and fight "to annihilate or be annihilated." For the eventuality that Hungary should fall to the Red Army, Szálasi's contingency plan was to surrender only to the Anglo-American forces in the West, but not to the Soviets. He took measures to save Hungary's most sacred national treasure, the Holy Crown of St. Stephen, which on his orders was taken to Germany (today Austria) and hidden underground in a safe place, to be entrusted to the highest American military authority after the war.

THE ENCIRCLEMENT

By Christmas Eve 1944, Budapest was completely surrounded by the Red Army, which by then included the Soviets' new allies, the Romanians. The number of defenders totaled approximately 70,000; of this, 55% were Hungarian under Gen. Iván vitéz Hindy, and 45% German under SS-Obergruppenführer von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch. This consisted of the following units: The 10th Hungarian Infantry Division; the 12th Hungarian Reserve Division; the Hungarian Gendarme Regiment; the University Storm Battalions (I and II); the Prónay Detachment; the Vannay Alarm Battalion; the Arrow Cross Party Militiamen; the Hungarista Légió; the 22nd SS Cavalry Division "Maria Theresa;" the 8th SS Cavalry Division "Florian Geyer;" the 13th Panzer Division; the Panzergrenadier Division "Feldherrnhalle;" and the 1st SS-Polizei Regiment.

Above, Soviet soldiers man a mobile artillery device after their entry into Budapest after a siege lasting six weeks—from December 24, 1944, until February 12, 1945. Waffen-SS troops, Hungarian troops and Hungarian militia fought valiantly to save the citizens of Budapest from the same fate suffered by many civilians at the hands of marauding Soviet troops. In referring to the Soviet troops, the Germans consistently referred to them as "Mongolische" and "Asiatic." As you can see from the faces of several of the Soviet soldiers above, a goodly proportion of Soviet troops were in fact Mongol-blooded.

Gen. von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch assumed overall command.

Soviet marshals Malinovskiy and Tolbuchin thought Budapest could be taken in three or four days. Hoping to achieve this, on December 29 they sent two "parliamentarians" with white flags to the nearby 22nd and 8th SS Cavalry Divisions to serve an ultimatum for immediate surrender of Budapest. The ultimatum was promptly rejected by divisional commanders Zehender and Rumohr. Unfortunately both emissaries perished. The Jeep of Soviet Capt. Steinmetz failed to stop before an undisguised minefield, and the vehicle of Capt. Ostapenko was subjected to Soviet artillery fire as he was returned blindfolded to his Jeep in a German *Schwimmwagen.*[1]

THE SIEGE BEGINS

Initially the city was subjected to harassing fire and then destructive fire. The Katyusha rockets ("Stalin's Organs") sounded off for hours, signaling that the siege of Budapest had begun. Generally, shops and restaurants were still open till the first days of January, but then the streets became more and more depopulated. The stores closed their doors because people standing in the streets became easy targets for low-flying planes. The greatest problem for the metropolis was the scarcity of water, since the population has greatly swollen due to refugees from the East. The lack of food, too, reached catastrophic proportions until the cavalry divisions participating in the city's defense were forced to begin slaughtering their horses.

After January 10, the Russian attacks became extremely intense with systematic bombing three times daily. This resulted in heavy casualties for them as Soviet commanders often drove the troops to total annihilation, aiming to break the greatly outnumbered defenders' will to stand up to the seemingly never ending waves of attacks. The combat lasted for several weeks and went from block to block, house to house. Often just one or two warriors were defending a large building, making the impression of a larger unit by moving from side to side, shooting out of different openings. A report of January 13 states: "During the street fighting the Russians are driving the civilian population in front of them and coercing it to shout to the defenders to surrender. . . . Certain targets and residential

districts are under low altitude attacks by enemy aircraft."

January 14: "The day passed with constant aerial terror bombing." The worst example of those aerial attacks was the destruction of the Regent House, one of the largest apartment buildings where a single bomb killed 500 civilian residents.

FORTRESS BUDA

On January 18, Pest, the eastern half of the city, fell. The retreating troops crossed the Danube, exploding the bridges behind them, hoping to slow down the westward advance of the Russians, despite recommendations by Gen. Hindy to forego the explosions.

The defenders held the western half of the city, Buda, till February 12, 1945. Having run extremely low on supplies, including ammunition, food, water and medicine, they broke out of the encirclement intent on joining the relieving troops located just a few miles away in the northwest. Unable to defend themselves under heavy fire, most of them perished.

The tragic sortie was not even completed, and the sounds of gunfire were still to be heard in the city when the first "People's Court" was improvised in Pest by one of the Communist leaders who had just returned behind the Soviet troops, Z. Vas (Weinberger). It was he who appointed Àkos Major judge and ordered him to conduct a speedy outdoor trial, sentence to death and have executed a pair of "war criminals." As a result, two Hungarian sergeants were promptly hanged from the lampposts on the Oktogon Square, to the amusement of the rabble of Budapest.

THE AFTERMATH

When the last bastion, the Royal Palace, fell to the Soviets, they committed a great number of atrocities. Among others, they attacked 12,000 wounded people with flamethrowers who were being cared for in the basement hospital. In another basement, that of the Home Defense Ministry, 3,000 men burned to death or suffocated. In the groves of Buda, the "liberators" shot some 3,000 German and Hungarian soldiers immediately after a brief hearing. Those patients unable to walk were dragged out of the small hospice next to the ministry and crushed by armored vehicles. Several nurses were raped, then knifed.

Hungarians and Germans in Budapest were ready to defend their city to the end against the advancing Red forces, known for their savage treatment of civilian populations. Above, Hungarian civilian volunteers of the *Hungarita Légió* are shown assembling to man defensive positions in late 1944. Arrow Cross armbands (inset left) were normally worn on the left arm. The siege lasted from Christmas Eve of 1944 until February 12, 1945.

The barbarians did not spare the civilian population. A "Sister T.A." was torn apart by horses after some 15 soldiers of Mongol origin raped her. They also raped two German nurses on the spot and impaled them along with a Hungarian first lieutenant and a couple of German soldiers.

Stalin rewarded his troops with 10 days of pillage. Rape and plunder were rampant. Fortunately, many a woman escaped from being brutalized by hiding and disguising herself. The less fortunate ones were driven to suicide, became pregnant or contracted venereal diseases. Civilians were rounded up for *malinki robot* ("little work").

Tens of thousands fell victim to this kidnapping for forced labor. Many of them were never again seen by their families, or only decades later. The survivors got their taste of Soviet "paradise." The uncle and aunt of this author were removed from their parental home but, by a daring and risky maneuver, escaped during the night and hid out in the rubble for days. The population of Budapest experienced first hand what it is like to be "liberated" by the Soviet hordes.

It took two more months before Hungary finally fell to the Red Army in April 1945. This delay made Stalin very angry, for, by that time western Europe had been taken by the Anglo-American armies.

In retrospect the question comes to the fore: Was the decision to withstand the Soviet onslaught in Budapest a wise one? The answer depends on your point of view. One thing is certain: Budapest's defenders viewed confederative fidelity as a matter of national honor. Their sacrificial perseverance proved to have bought time to save life and property from the Soviet steamroller. ❖

ENDNOTE:

[1] The Volkswagen Schwimmwagen (Porsche Type 128 and Type 166) was an amphibious vehicle used extensively by the German Wehrmacht and the Waffen-SS during World War II.—Ed.

GUSTAV VERES is a artist working in the fine arts and a critic who escaped from Hungary after the 1956 popular uprising was crushed by the Soviets. Promised help from the United States government for the revolutionaries never arrived. He now lives in Ohio.

Was Adolf Hitler Kidnapped From the Berlin Bunker?

A SPANISH SPY, U.S. military intelligence officers and America's foremost expert on submarine warfare all say Hitler & Bormann were taken from Berlin in the waning days of WWII

THE FUEHRER'S "PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN," Marshal Zhukov said shortly after World War II. Zhukov denied reports that the Soviets had found a corpse that "could be Hitler's." He added: "Based on personal and official information, we can only say that Hitler had a chance to get away with his bride [Eva Braun]. Hitler could have flown out at the very last minute." Zhukov's personal view was that Hitler had taken refuge in Spain. Zhukov briefed Gen. Eisenhower on the Soviet line. Eisenhower later told the press he had changed his mind about Hitler and believed the Nazi leader might still be alive. At the Big Three summit in Potsdam, Germany, Stalin told U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes he believed Hitler was living in Spain or Argentina. On other occasions, Stalin speculated that Hitler had made his way to Japan on board a U-boat; or that he was hiding in Germany in the British occupation zone. Were Stalin, Zhukov and Eisenhower crazy? Or is there a chance Hitler somehow did survive the end of World War II? What follows is a transcription of the remarks of WWII submarine warfare historian Harry Cooper detailing his book *Escape from the Bunker* and presented at the TBR AUTHENTIC HISTORY CONFERENCE held over the 2006 Labor Day weekend.

BY HARRY COOPER

Good morning. Nobody here knows who I am. I am not famous like some of the speakers here. And the information I have, on the surface, might not seem too connected to the main theme that we are here at this conference for. But as you listen you'll find out that it is.

First, I will tell you a little about me, then a little about Sharkhunters, and then a little bit about this book, *Escape From the Bunker*, as a foundation for moving into areas of greater interest.

I have an affinity for racing cars and used to be a Grand National stockcar racer. But that was a long time ago.

Most of the people at this conference will readily admit that the government lies and the media lies. But a number of you have stopped me in the hallway to say, "So you think Hitler survived?" It's funny, but everyone believes everything else all the other speakers have said, but many are questioning me. You'll believe me too in a minute.

Hitler started the war to kill all the Jews and rule the world. That's what we were told. The Germans hated God. They prayed to Hitler. The U-Boaters machine-gunned people in the water for sport, because they were just evil. However, we were fighting to keep America free.

I was one of those sheeple. I bought it.

Out of high school I went into the Air Force and spent four years. I wanted to kill Nazis because we were told to. But

this was 1957, and there weren't any Nazis left. So we had to kill Koreans. And as soon as that was over—I didn't get to kill anybody and nobody got to kill me—I still had the same feeling: Germans were all evil Nazis.

Out of the Air Force I went to college; and when I got out I had a regular, honest job. I was an executive with a petrochemical company at the time of the so-called "1973 Arab oil embargo." Those "Ay-rabs" shut off the feedstocks. The president of our company, Northern Petrochemicals, called everybody together in the cafeteria from the mail clerk to the president. We got free coffee and doughnuts, and he went into a long diatribe about how those "lousy Ay-rabs" had shut off the pipeline and we weren't going to get any inventory. Well, that didn't bother me because I was in charge of corporate inventory, and I was a real mess-up in those days. I figured, hey, I can take two-hour lunches and go home early.

Guess what? We never missed one ounce of feedstock. But within one hour of the time the president of the company made his announcement, the price of Peak Antifreeze went from 87¢ a gallon to $4 a gallon. The low-density petrochemical we made your average garbage bag from went from a dime a pound to 50¢ a pound within one hour. All because those "nasty Ay-rabs" had shut off the pipelines, which apparently they did not.

That's when I realized almost everything I heard from the government and the corporate bigwigs was a bunch of baloney.

"In a letter from Spanish spy Don Angel Alcazar de Velasco, I was told how he had been working for the Axis during the war and was tasked with getting Martin Bormann out of Berlin."

It was then that I sold everything that I had, bought a 30-foot sailing yacht and moved to the Bahamas. It ended up being a life-changing experience for me.

I spent about eight years bouncing around the islands in my boat. But one time, I cruised onto a little island called Darby Island in the Azuma Chain. It was unique because it was about three miles in diameter and there were the ruins of a plantation manor house on the hill. I asked the old caretaker what was going on. He said during the war years they had 26 fresh water wells and it was an operating plantation. He said once or twice they had given fresh water and food to German U-Boats that had come over. My immediate thought was "Those dirty Nazis; they were supposed to be in Germany! What are they doing in the Western Hemisphere?"

So I filed it away. Then one day in 1982 I reached into my pocket. I had only one picture of Abe Lincoln left. I was down to five bucks and I figured I'd better go home.

I went home, went back to a real job and started doing some research into these "Godless Nazis." Can you imagine my shock when I found out our government had lied about them?

This was only my first experience with government "smoke and mirrors." Those of you who are old enough to remember the war years will remember that Germans were all painted as pagan heathens even though their belt buckles said "God is with us" ("*Gott mit uns*"). But during war, propaganda is a fair weapon. It may not be nice, but it is fair. You can't tell your soldiers that the guy in the other uniform has a wife and kid like you or that he loves his country like you. Or that he goes to the same church as you do. That makes it tough for the officers to say, "Now I want you to go kill him." People might say: "Wait a minute. Maybe I need to rethink this."

You have to make the enemy look like some kind of a godless monster. Yes, propaganda is a fair weapon in wartime.

But after the war is over we must be accurate. And all those who know me know I am an absolute fanatic for truth and honesty. Lies just drive me nuts.

SHARKHUNTERS

By this time I was vice president of a company and making a good buck. One day I walked into my boss's office and handed him my 20-pound key ring and quit. I told him I was going to go to Florida and concentrate on Sharkhunters full time. He said, "You're a vice president. You have to give notice." I said: "OK. Take a look out the window. See that van? You won't 'notice' it in 20 minutes!"

My new wife was rather shocked when I came home at 11 a.m. that day. She said: "Are you nuts? Don't you remember I'm pregnant? Where's the security? Where's the insurance?"

I said: "I don't know. I just know this has to be done."

So, in 1983, I started Sharkhunters. We hunt the history of the great gray "sharks," the submarines. I thought it was a clever title. We were able to acquire 22 members. I figured this would be small potatoes—a limited area of interest.

Then we started to grow and grow. By 1987 it was obvious a lot of people were interested in the history of the U-Boats and how they affected world history.

So we moved to Florida and started to put our heart into it. And today we have more than 7,100 members in 74 countries—people who were not only interested in the history of the U-Boats but also how it pertains to the whole history of World War II and today.

We have the only official publication in the world on the history of the U-Boats. We are into our 23rd year. Our magazine is held in the permanent archives in the National Archives, the U-Boat archives in Germany, the U.S. Navy archives etc. We helped put together productions for the

Bormann Escaped the Bunker?

Historian Harry Cooper in a new book has made the claim that Bormann escaped to South America from Berlin in the waning days of World War II. By this time in 1945, Berlin was in a shambles and in chaos (lower right) with many buildings destroyed and food shortages at critical levels. Berlin's prominent government buildings were also destroyed. The massive shell of the once beautiful Reichstag is shown in the upper right. Cooper also makes that claim, based on the handwritten memoirs of Axis spy Don Angel Alcazar de Velasco, that a plan was in effect to drug Hitler and whisk him to safety. Cooper claims the broken Hitler left Germany—not of his own volition—and was secreted by submarine to a safe haven on a snow-covered island south of Argentina. Cooper's *Escape from the Bunker* is available now from Poisoned Pen Publishing. See color ad opposite page 41 of this issue.

History Channel, before it became a kind of *National Enquirer* of history. And we have the largest network of surviving U-Boat skippers and U.S. submariners. What I learned from these guys was that you might as well set fire to all your non-Revisionist history books.

Otto Kretchmer, the greatest submarine commander of the whole war, was a friend of mine and I had my own room in his home when I would visit northern Germany. The youngest combat submarine commander of the war—possibly of all time—a 21-year-old kid during the war—Hans-Georg Hess, is my best friend in Germany. He's on my board of directors. His son is an attorney and he's on my board. Now I'm not going to say anything too politically incorrect like many of our other speakers because I'm going to Germany in two weeks and I don't want to stay there as long as Ernst [Zuendel] has stayed there or as long as David Irving stayed in Austria. [Laughter.] I want to come home. Besides, the holocaust is not my area of expertise.

Sharkhunters does go on tours to Germany, where we meet with some of the great living U-Boat commanders, visit World War II historical sites and share meals and beer.

Some American skippers are at first a little antsy about drinking with their former enemies. However, one great story involved Hans-Georg Hess. One night at a beer hall where my Sharkhunters tour group was enjoying some good German suds, one of the U.S. destroyer skippers described his World War II patrol area. Hess said that was also pretty much his patrol area and asked the American what his ship numbers were. The American told him, and Hess said: "I remember that ship. I fired a torpedo at you. But your lookout must have spotted it, and you turned at the last minute."

The American skipper said: "Yeah, I remember that incident. Hah! You missed us. What do you think about that?"

Hess slammed his fist on the bar and said: "Well, I'm glad we missed you. Now we have more time for beer!"

There's another story involving a fellow named Peter

Chelemedos, one of our members who was an executive officer on an American steamer that was sunk by a German U-Boat. We've all heard stories about the Germans machine-gunning survivors in the water, and sinking life rafts and all that. It didn't happen. If it were true, Chelemedos wouldn't be here today. He was picked up from the water by the Germans who sank his boat.

AN AMAZING LETTER

In 1985 I got a package from one of our members, Don Angel Alcazar de Velasco. In it was a 114-page, single-spaced, typewritten letter in which he told me how he had been a Spanish spy working for the Axis during the war. In the beginning he had been working for the "Tow Ring," *tow* or *to* being one of the Japanese words for "East."—Ed.].

And then he switched over to the German side. He was the pivot point in something called Operation Willing in which he was in Portugal and he was going to try to get to be buddies with Edward VIII, the former king of England, then the duke of Windsor, married to that American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. And the deal was he was going to talk the former king into going on a hunting expedition in Spain with him.

And then the Abwehr was going to grab the duke and hold him for ransom and try to get the British to have a sit-down for peace. It didn't work. He failed. Don Angel failed at a lot of these things.

"Whenever we'd grab up some Abwehr agent or a party official, or an SS officer, the first thing we'd grill him on would be the whereabouts of Hitler. We knew he had escaped."

The main thrust of Don Angel's letter was that he was working in the Fuerherbunker the last three months or so of the war and that by then Martin Bormann had pretty much assumed all the control. Hitler was a broken man. He said in his letter that he saw Hitler and Eva Braun forcibly drugged under orders of Bormann and taken out of the bunker.

At first I thought this guy was a little nutty. He went on in his letter to say how he continued to work for the movement, the Reich, back in his native Spain.

Less than a year after the war he was asked to come to a Nazi safe-house to meet a certain Herr Fleischman. His job was to take Herr Fleischman to South America. It turned out that Herr Fleischman was none other than Martin Bormann. In the letter Don Angel talked in great detail on how they got out of a little Spanish town called Villa Garcia, about 30 kilometers from Viggo, Spain, which had been a very important port to the Germans. You may remember in the movie "*Das Boot*" that Nazi submarines would often surface next to German cargo ships near Viggo and the various ports of Spain.

So he said they got out and they went to a place called Puerto Coy on the Patagonian coast. Don Angel also imparted many of the stories he had about Bormann during the voyage and afterward and the many other people who wanted to escape to safety. All kinds of minute details were included in the letter.

Again, I thought this guy had some frayed wires. He goes on in his letter to talk about how he had been ordered to move to Mexico City and remain in contact with Bormann, because now Bormann was his boss.

One of the things he was supposed to do was to maintain observation on two children in Las Cruces, New Mexico—a girl, Estrella, which means "star" in Spanish, and a boy named Adolfo. You can read into that whatever you want.

He maintained the files. He kept the photos. And then one day in 1952, he was told to go to a certain airport. They started flying south in a small aircraft that was being flown by a man that Don Angel said was a former Luftwaffe pilot. They flew down to an ice-covered area. After debarking, Don Angel was ushered into a mess hall, he had dinner and was given a place to sleep. The next morning, "the Colonel"—he was dressed in a black uniform like an SS man—asked him, "Do you have the file?" Don Angel said: "Yes. They're here." The colonel said, "Take them into the office and report to the Fuerher."

"What do you mean when you say 'the Fuerher'?" Don Angel asked.

"There's only one Fuerher," the Colonel replied.

He went into the room and there was a man there who bore an uncanny likeness to an aged Adolf Hitler.

Now this sounds very Hollywoody. But there's more.

In 1988, one of our members came to visit me. His name was Capt. Robert Thugh, retired U.S. Navy captain who was very high up in U.S. intelligence—later with the NSA. (Did you know they had an unlisted number for their museum, which isn't open to anybody?) I said: "Have you ever heard of a guy named Don Angel Alcazar de Velasco?" He said, "Oh, you mean the Spanish spy?" And I said: "I was just wondering if he was who he said he was. This screwball wrote to me and said he helped Bormann escape and that he met with Hitler in 1952. Everybody knows Hitler committed suicide in the bunker in 1945."

And just as calm as he could be while he was sipping a cup of coffee he said: "No, he didn't. We knew Hitler didn't kill himself."

I said, "What do you mean by 'we'?" He said: "The intelligence community. Whenever we'd grab up some Abwehr agent or a high-ranking party official, or a high-ranking SS officer, the first thing we'd grill him on would be the whereabouts of Hitler. We knew he had escaped."

Controversy rages even today over photos of "the dead Hitler." Above is the "official" Soviet photo of Adolf Hitler's corpse. It may have been disinterred for this photo. However, military historians say the photo has obviously been "flipped" as Hitler's buttons were on the wrong side of his jacket. At right we see the photo oriented in its proper perspective. At far right, another picture shows that elements within the picture have been rearranged, the photograph shown in the picture (supposedly of Eva Braun) moving from background to foreground. Experts on such matters say the alterations and "flipping" may have been staged by the Soviets to present a more convincing photo of what some say is Hitler's doppleganger. The Soviets said they burned the corpse after photographs were made. Considering the fact that Hitler's surviving associates say that they—not the Soviets—burned the corpse before the Soviets came on the scene, the authenticity of these photos is in question. U-Boat historian Harry Cooper says Hitler escaped

The bottom line is, Bormann had usurped Hitler's power and he meant to keep the Reich alive. Hitler was needed as a figurehead. "Heil Bormann" just doesn't have a ring to it. At that time most people didn't know who Bormann was anyway. The war was over in May 1945 after Germany surrendered, but from May of 1943, when Germany lost as many submarines in that month alone as the U.S. lost in combat in the whole war—from that point on—it was pretty obvious that things were not going to go well for Germany. By the middle of 1944 the German motto was "We're going to fight until the last man." What that really meant was they were going to fight to the last private and sergeant, while the officers got out.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOR NAZIS

From the middle of 1944 to the middle of 1947, a few years after the end of the war, there was an underground railway. The people who needed to get out of Europe went to Villa Garcia and were helped along. As an aside, there was a list of the top Nazis still on the loose, and Argentina's Juan Peron got ahold of the list. (If you know your history you know Evita Peron was over in Germany right after the war. Being the humanitarian that she was, her people were finding the National Socialists before the Allies did.) Many of these Nazis were just a week away from Nuremberg, and passage to Argentina sounded quite enticing. For a little bit of

money, the Perons could make this happen.

Thousands of Nazis went to Argentina. I always joke that if the United States ever falls, I speak enough German to get along in Argentina.

This route went from Villa Garcia to the Patagonian coast with a stopoff at an island called Trinidade, not to be confused with Trinidad in the Caribbean Sea. Trinidade, a Brazilian possession, is a little rock in the middle of the Atlantic about five or six miles long. Brazil always kept a few dozen sailors there just to hoist up the flag and show ownership. From the middle of 1944 to 1950 they pulled their sailors off the island. But there was a German caretaker who looked after some goats and pigs and made sure that any passersby received fresh water. Some of the visitors to the island included secret U-Boats—called "black submarines."

So, many of these Nazis made it to South America. If you remember, Sam Donaldson of *60 Minutes* fame was down there about 10 years ago and found this SS guy who had shot three people. We did some research and we found before it was all over that about 10,000 German veterans, and in many cases their wives and kids, escaped making the total number of Germans who made it South America about 50,000.

"Our government told us that they positively identified Hitler and Bormann. Remember, this is the same government that told us Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy by himself."

At the end of the war, when Germany surrendered, many U-Boats were on the high seas. Some went to America. Some went to Canada etc. But there were still three U-Boat crews in the central Atlantic that didn't want to be "prisoners of war." One was U-530 under Korvetenkapitan Otto Wehrmut, who is still a member of Sharkhunters. This sub went to Mar del Platt, which is the Argentine submarine base in Buenos Aires, in late July, after the war ended. When he surrendered they asked him why he had come so far. And he said, "Well, I want to surrender where my men will be treated with dignity." Two weeks later, U-977, under Heinz Schaffer, surrendered in the same place, and he too said that he wanted to surrender his men and his boat with dignity.

The two captains claimed they did not know each other or why both had chosen the exact same place to surrender. The interesting thing about the second boat, U-977, was that it was a sea boat with a range of 6,500 miles. It had left Norway with 93 tons of fuel when the war was still going on. U-977's captain allegedly then went down to attack shipping off England. When the war ended, he went back to Norway, and then headed down to Buenos Aires, all without taking on any fuel.

It's kind of like you putting half a tank of gas in your car and heading off to California and getting there without running out of fuel.

The third submarine we discovered was scuttled off the coast of Argentina. We found this out when we heard that Argentine officials announced that they had found a sunken U-Boat off the coast. I called the Argentine embassy and asked for information on the identity of this U-Boat. The official who answered the phone said: "We are sorry, Señor Cooper. That's classified information." I said, "What's top secret about a 40-year-old submarine?" Every time I called for a week they gave me the runaround. The last time I called they said, "What submarine, Señor Cooper?"

About two years ago I got a call from a retired officer from the Argentine navy. "Remember that submarine you were looking for?" he said. "It's there; I know it's there."

In the near future he and I plan on putting together an expedition to explore the wreck. Many surviving, former Nazis are still scared to say what they know for fear that Simon Wiesenthal will arrive and scoop them up and accuse them of being war criminals. In the early 1970s, one of those "television magazines" did a whole series on Bormann in South America, following him from house to house, offering photos of him in older age. How did he get there if he died in Berlin? He and Hitler lived. I'm sure of it.

I'll leave you with one last thought. Our government told us that they positively identified Hitler and Bormann. Remember, this is the same government that told us Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy by himself, that a few untrained bozos brought down the Twin Towers, that we had to attack Iraq to stop Saddam Hussein from invading America etc etc. Think about it. ❖

HARRY COOPER is the publisher of *KTB Magazine* and the founder of Sharkhunters, Inc., an organization dedicated to the authentic history of WWII submarine warfare. Find out more by checking out Cooper's group online at www.sharkhunters.com or writing Cooper at P.O. Box 1539, Hernando, FL 32642.

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WWII Waffen-SS Veteran Maintains Hitler Memorial In America's Heartland

WHILE AMERICA WAS ALLIED WITH THE SOVIETS during World War II in a campaign to make the world safe for Communism, Theodore Jünker was one of thousands of European volunteers who fought to rid the world of the terrible scourge. In four years of frontline fighting right up to the end, the elite Waffen-SS sergeant, then officer, was wounded six times—three times seriously—only to be placed, for his bravery, in a British death camp in Husum, northern Germany after the war. Theo Jünker was one of the few to survive. By creating a memorial to his fallen comrades and to his commander-in-chief, the now 87-year-old Wisconsin farmer feels he is reaffirming the oath of allegiance he once swore as a young Waffen-SS man in 1940: My Honor Is Loyalty.

BY JOHN NUGENT

SUGAR CREEK, WISCONSIN. Still handsome and active at age 87, with sparkling blue eyes and a weekend girlfriend in Chicago (his wife and mother of his four children passed on over a decade ago), a Wisconsin goose, duck and pig raiser and corn farmer named Theodore Jünker has made international headlines. As of the last week in June, there were over 60,000 Internet pages, and hundreds of newspaper features worldwide, referring to "Theo" Jünker's shrine to Adolf Hitler and to his former comrades of the Waffen-SS. Both America's *Time* magazine and Germany's counterpart, *Der Spiegel*, have written up this cheerful and fearless individual; the *Time* article was amazingly fair and the reporter obviously impressed.

"How can it be that when you can get newspapers, books, Internet, everything, just like that—how can it be that people don't know the truth? Because for 60 years it was taught one way."

Jünker's shrine to Hitler and to his fallen SS comrades cost the semi-retired farmer $200,000 in savings. Jünker explained to TBR what drives him: "How can it be that in America, today, when you can get newspapers, books, Internet, everything, just like that—how can it be that people don't know the truth? I'd wake up in the middle of the night and it would hit me. Because for 60 years it was taught one way. I said a long time ago I would do something about it, but I was farming and never had the time. Now I have no fear and I can do this. I said, if I could bring seven people over to the truth, I will have succeeded. I have brought so many more now."

Over six years ago, Jünker decided to make his own statement with a shrine. Asked about repercussions and reprisals, the old warrior replies: "Now that I am an old man, I don't care if they try to get me." He still says it even after local sheriffs informed him, accurately, that there were Internet threats against him. The only compromise Jünker has made with authorities is not to have a grand public opening, as once scheduled, on June 25, to avoid a major confrontation. But the shrine is open, and any private individual can come and visit it, and "Theo." The authorities are clear on this: Jünker has the First Amendment right to express himself, and zoning laws can only stop him from creating a traffic nuisance in his rural area.

The shrine is a simple but handsome, 30- by 50-ft. white-painted concrete structure built into the side of a steep hill

nearly a mile from the nearest road, down a narrow dirt path. It contains photo portraits of the late German leader on marble pedestals, statements from and about Hitler and others by Jünker himself, urging that both sides of an issue should be given a fair and careful hearing. There are bookcases with information about Hitler, the Third Reich, the Waffen-SS and the dubiousness of the "holocaust." Elegant black marble plaques affixed to the walls of the stark shrine commemorate the exact numbers of the thousands of fallen Waffen-SS from each volunteering nationality: Dutch, French, Norwegian, Estonian etc.

In 2001 Jünker had applied to local Walworth County authorities for permission to build a multistory building with a 300-seat assembly hall, a dining hall and a radio station. That proposal was denied, but Jünker was granted permission in 2002 to build a storage shed, which has by amazing coincidence evolved into a Hitler and Waffen-SS shrine. Jünker does not like "no" for an answer.

Theo Jünker hails from the 60-member-strong Jünker clan in the town of Marienfeld, in a once solidly German area of what is now Romania. Jünker's own immediate family members were winegrowers. Two hundred years ago, Austrian Empress Maria Theresa had invited hardworking southern Germans and Rhinelanders into an area that had been devastated and depopulated by the Turks during several wars. Much of the area was swampy and disease-ridden; within three generations with endless sacrifices and struggles, the so-called "Danube Swabians" (who were actually not all Swabians) turned the swampy "Banat" area into the breadbasket of Austria-Hungary.

"In 1940, admiring the new German Reich in the land of his ancestors, Jünker walked over 400 miles from Romania across Hungary to German Austria and enlisted promptly in the Waffen-SS."

Before World War II there were 750,000 Danube Swabians. As a young man, Jünker was active with the German youth organization in the area, which resulted in his arrest and imprisonment on a number of occasions in pro-French Romania. During this time he shared "accommodations" with members of Cornelius Codreanu's fascist Iron Guard, for whom he still has the highest praise. (Codreanu and key followers were murdered in cold blood, during a fictitious "prison break," by King Michael II of Romania in 1938.)

Tired in 1940 of persecution in Romania as an ethnic German and admiring the new German Reich in the land of his ancestors, Jünker walked over 400 miles from Romania across Hungary to German Austria and enlisted in the Waffen-SS.

Asked by TBR to name just a few things he admired about the Third Reich, Jünker, who has been in the United States since 1955, replied: "All 80 million people had full health care."

Serving in the "Viking" Division, which contained many ethnic Germans from outside the Reich's boundaries, as well as Dutch and Scandinavian volunteers, Jünker saw heavy action on the southern Eastern Front through Ukraine all the way to Chechnya. He was wounded six times, three times quite seriously. The last time was in the 1945 fighting along the Oder River, which initiated the final-stage of the Battle of Berlin. The wounded Jünker barely made it out of the Reich's capital on a hospital train before the capital was completely cut off in late April 1945.

Prior to that, Jünker, who had risen through valor and skill to staff sergeant, had been sent to a Waffen-SS officer's training school near Prague. He notes today with amusement that at a German officer school, every officer candidate is called a "Jünker"—and so his instructors were forced to address him as "Jünker Jünker."

TBR learned from Theo that he still feels attached to the honor and loyalty he experienced as a member of the Waffen-SS. He marvels that four times, after being wounded, when uniforms and packs were of course being quickly stripped off and personal items always have a way of getting lost, medical staff and fellow soldiers would make sure to forward his beloved Agfa camera on to him, pursuing him to his hospital in the rear or catching up with him when back at the front; nobody ever kept it for himself. Jünker commented: "They were so honest in the Waffen-SS."

His voice choking with emotion, Jünker related to TBR a poignant conversation he had had in a Berlin hospital toward the very end of the conflict. The Waffen-SS officer next to him, a Belgian had just lost a leg. A battalion commander, he and other high officers commanding the hundreds of thousands of non-German volunteers in the Waffen-SS had been summoned to Heinrich Himmler's headquarters on April 10, 1945. The Belgian had heard Himmler thank all the foreign volunteers for their valiant service. Then he stated that the war was evidently lost and that they could return to the front and "tell your boys that they can go back to their homelands."

Jünker exclaimed: "Nobody wanted to go home. They had a chance to go. They all stayed and fought and died for Europe."

The wounded Jünker was then evacuated to Nordfriesland near Husum on the North Sea, where he and other comrades were arrested by the British. He then was placed in the Neuengamme camp for SS prisoners—a

At left, Theo Jünker points to one of the displays inside his Wisconsin memorial. Upper right, Jünker locks up and leaves for the day, always offering a friendly smile to any visitors—whether they are friendly or not. Below right, on either side of his featured photos of Adolf Hitler, Jünker proudly hangs the American flag and the swastika flag of WWII Germany.

true death camp (something like the Rheinwiesen death camps mentioned in James Bacque's masterwork *Other Losses*), where one in five prisoners did not survive the one year he was there.

TBR learned from Jünker that both Third Reich civilian political figures such as gauleiters and soldiers as well as members of the Waffen-SS were kept there, mostly in a former brick factory. The famous former boxing champion Max Schmeling, who had been a civilian employee of the SS, was also interned at Neuengamme, near Jünker's area.

German-hating Belgians in British uniforms were assigned by his majesty's officers as their "guards." These psychopaths would shoot from the rooftop of the brickworks with machine guns into the mass of 6,000 helpless prisoners in the factory floor below. At other times, 50-60 soldiers would be lined up for brutal interrogations, and he said the Belgians would lunge and stab with bayonets at the soldiers every day. Other prisoners were forced to stand for hours and days in the August sun. Jünker was shocked when even he, as an officer, was beaten severely by five such "guards," all with British approval.

Jünker was not eager to tell these harrowing stories; he typifies the old-school Germans who believe in *Leiden ohne Klagen*, "suffering without complaint"—instead of vice versa.

Strikingly, Jünker shows no overt bitterness over the atrocious mistreatment he suffered. He also states how much he loves America, and a relatively fair article in the online June 16 *Time* magazine says how the grandfatherly semi-retiree intends to greet both well- and ill-wishers with a friendly calm to his shrine. The *Time* article concludes: "Either way Jünker will greet them with his ready smile and firm grip. 'This isn't about hate,' he says. 'Take hate out of it. It's about understanding.'"

Jünker's serene stance is in stark contrast to the hate-filled speech of a collection of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student groups. Jonathan Brostoff, spokesman for two campus Zionist groups, called for prosecution of the never-investigated former soldier for "war crimes," and let the invective fly: "The fact that this Nazi has the gall to openly flaunt his vile ideology, 61 years after the defeat of fascism, is sickening."

Brostoff said the goal of the mostly Jewish student rallies was to urge the Office of Special Investigation ("Nazi hunters") at the Department of Justice in Washington to investigate and prosecute Jünker: "The Nuremberg Trials declared the entirety of the SS as a criminal organization, because of its implementation of racial policies of genocide in the holocaust." Brostoff also pointed out that Jünker was not remorseful about his National Socialist past and that he "continues to blindly proclaim that not one person was gassed to death in the Third Reich."

Brostoff said his protesters wanted the Department of Justice to investigate Jünker for either war crimes or for

"falsifying information" during his citizen application process. Jünker immigrated to the United States perfectly legally in 1955, the first year that former Waffen-SS were specifically allowed to do so.

Brostoff concluded that "it is extremely important for us to send a strong message to the Nazi, the Department of Justice, and citizens across America." Playing the local-boy card, he added: "This is not happening in California or New York. This is in our backyard, our state, our home."

Brostoff is president of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee "Campus Organization for Israel."

Needless to say, the regional office of the Anti-Defamation League also chimed in, denouncing the shrine, a fruit of Jünker's labor and money, as "the sickening work of an unrepentant anti-Semite and holocaust denier." Adam Schupack, associate director for the league's Chicago office, stated that Jünker was most unusual because most people with Nazi or SS pasts try to hide it. He added: "Our concern is that this could very easily become a place of pilgrimage."

"I want understanding of the truth that Hitler didn't start the war," Jünker said from his home, situated deep in the woods of southern Wisconsin. Standing above a pond and keeping watch over a dozen ducklings and geese, he asserted forthrightly: "The holocaust is the biggest lie in the history of mankind."

"Honorary Hall for Adolf Hitler: Before You Pass Judgment, Give Careful and Equal Consideration to Both Sides" says a large sign on the outside of the shrine when one arrives at a large landing. Inside, Jünker's inscriptions refer to "those German and other European heroes" who perished under the tyranny of "Allied persecution and genocide."

Jünker also teaches that Hitler did not despise other races and that the National Socialist regime was not a rule-by-fear dictatorship. If anyone suffered, Jünker says, it was the Germans and the rest of German-ruled Europe.

Sugar Creek Township Chairman Loren Waite, perhaps to shield the town from criticism, calls Jünker "a mixed-up old man. . . . I hope he's just confused." Jünker seems hardly that: among the first sights at the memorial is a large rendering of the First Amendment. Behind a vast concrete deck that looks over his pond towers a proud American flag. Jünker says he has no fear of being targeted, and that if he is attacked, he will gladly die as "an old man who lived his life's dream."

UPDATE: Twenty-five well-wishers descended in October 2006 on Jünker's farm to see his memorial. This, however, violated a county rule forced on the 86-year-old rural Wisconsin farmer in July that no more than three persons visit his site at one time for dearth of bathrooms. (The exhibit has one; 25 persons to one toilet is acceptable in most states.) Newsmedia trumpeted worldwide that Jünker had been ordered to pay a $2,000 fine. In fact, Jünker told TBR that he merely posted a $2,000 bond against further crimes of having friends over who might tinkle behind a tree. Herr Jünker also attended TBR's Authentic History Conference in Washington, D.C. in late 2006. ❖

JOHN NUGENT, a Rhode Island native, served both as a machine-gunner and a multilingual interrogator in the U.S. Marines. He has been a European-American rights activist, writer and historian for many years now. He presently lives in northern Virginia.

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Adolf Hitler: The Ladies' Man?

WAS ADOLF HITLER—the most famous man of the 20th century—Jewish? Was he big on occultism? Was he a monster? Was he mad with bloodlust, as they say Nero was? Do not believe everything you hear, because this is one person about whom it can be said with some assurance that every lie that could possibly be told, is told about him. So who was he really? One thing is for sure: Hitler, although a shy fellow, was quite the lady's man. Here is an account of the romantic aspects of Adolf Hitler by one who knew him personally.

BY GEN. LEON DEGRELLE

Adolf Hitler—of whom, decades after the war, no one knows whether his calcified remains still exist, or where they came to rest—who was he really? Who was this man who turned the world upside down and changed it forever? What was his character? What were his passions? What did he think? What went on in his heart? Did he have one? And what was his mood up to the day when, a hundred yards from the triumphing Soviets, they said he blew his brains out?

I myself knew him—knew him over the course of 10 years; knew him intimately at the moment of his glory, as well as at the moment when the world he had worked for and dreamed of toppled about him. I know. I know who he was: the political leader, the commander-in-chief, the man—the man plain and simple. It is just too easy to be content to heap insults on the corpse of a vanquished foe; to write, to invent anything

No one in their right mind can deny that Adolf Hitler was an enthralling character with a powerful voice and mesmerizing oratory style—and in possession of an even more powerful personality. While detractors have speculated that he may have been homosexual, no evidence exists to support such a wild claim. The truth is that thousands of women from across the globe adored Hitler—several even killing themselves when they could not have him. Hitler's greatest love was for Germany and her *volk*, though he did make Eva Braun an "honest woman" with marriage, just before Germany collapsed in 1945.

about him, knowing that the public will accept anything as long as it goes along with the accepted image of Hitler: a monster. And knowing also that the rare witnesses who could explain that he was no such thing would keep silent to avoid being lumped in the same ignominious category as the dead Hitler.

Whatever stories the public may tell about him—whatever stories may be told to them—leave me totally indifferent. What matters is the truth—which I know.

Besides, it requires the imbecility of the masses to believe that a man borne along by the support of a hundred million Germans, for whom millions of young men also died, was nothing but a kind of Nero, drinking blood from morning till night from the faucet of his dementia.

I can still see him in Berlin, the first of May, 1943, sitting atop a huge grandstand on the airfield at Tempelhof. Hundreds of thousands of listeners roared with enthusiasm beneath his gaze. However, I was disappointed. His eloquence seemed without nuance; violent, elementary, one-note. A Latin public would have been more demanding. Even the irony was heavy-handed. It was an eloquence of force rather than an artful eloquence.

Likewise, the glow of his eyes did not especially impress me. They did not, as some claim, bore into the depths of my soul. Their flame was not unbearably intense.

"Blue, alert; their gaze powerful. But they did not seek to intimidate, or even to seduce, much less to ingratiate. You could look him right in the face without feeling that he was invading your soul."

Blue, alert, they were simply nice-looking; their gaze powerful. But they did not seek to intimidate, or even to seduce, much less to ingratiate. You could look him right in the face, intently, without feeling that he was invading your soul, or that you were disturbing him in the least.

Likewise, the famous "emanations." Some old fools like Princess Helen of Romania have written that when Hitler shook your hand his fingers sent an electric charge through you.

(King Carol II of Romania married this Greek princess in 1921. Her story was typical of the outrageous canards told by the self-serving and shameless and spread around by Hitler-demonizing publishers. Some claimed Hitler would foam at the mouth and even chew the carpet. Serious historians now maintain not one of these bizarre claims about Hitler, but they served their purpose at the time to stampede the lemmings into a second world war.)

Hitler's hand did not squeeze very hard; it was rather soft. As a matter of fact, especially with close friends, Hitler did not shake hands, but pressed your hand between his two hands. I never felt myself pierced to the core by his touch, unlike that Romanian princess.

I never leapt into the air as from a jolt of electricity.

Hitler was very simple, very well groomed. His ears always astonished me—they shone like pink shells.

He did not pretend to be a playboy, believe me. His clothes were always carefully pressed; it is hard to say much more about them. His military dress was always the same, without any embellishment whatever. His shoe size was 10 (European size 43). One night when I came to see him, dressed in Russian felt boots, he went to his closet, got out for me a pair of proper boots, and put a bit of newspaper in the toe so I would not swim around in them, since I wore a European size 42. This detail shows you how unpretentious the man was.

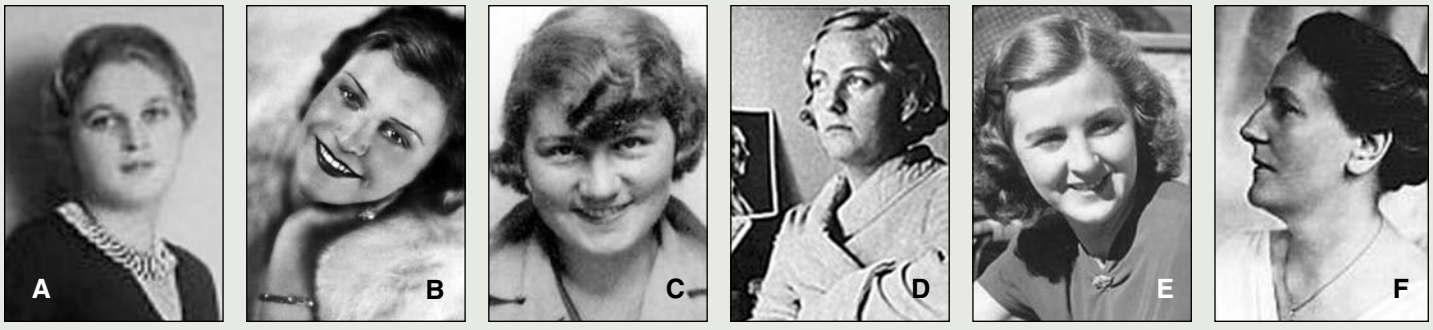
He needed nothing—except beauty. He spoiled himself, using royalties from *Mein Kampf* for a marvelous Botticelli that he hung just above his bed. He died without leaving a penny. For him, the problem of personal possessions, of personal wealth, did not even exist. I am sure that during the last years of his life he did not think about them once.

He took 10 minutes to eat. And his meals were astonishing. For this man who went to bed at five or six o'clock in the morning, and who was up at 11 a.m., reading glasses in hand, in front of his dossiers, hardly ate at all. He led all the terrible effort of the war without once having swallowed even a few ounces of meat. He did not eat eggs. He did not eat fish. A serving of pasta or of vegetables, a few cakes—and water, always water—and the Hitlerian feast was done. And remember, they were foods that most people believe "do not build strength."

He had a passion for music, to an astounding degree. He had an auditory memory equal to De Gaulle's memory for speech.[1]

He could whistle any tune without a mistake, no matter how long it was. Wagner was his god. He did not miss a nuance. He could confuse, in Spanish history, Queen Isabel the Catholic (of 15th century) and Isabel II (of the 19th), but he could not confuse two musical notes out of all the repertoire of the universe.

He loved his dogs. Someone had stolen his original dog during World War I. It was one of the greatest disappointments of his young years. Yes, that is how it was. I knew his German Shepherd Blondie, his dog during the last years. The excellent animal trotted by his side as he paced up and down the planks of his barrack room, as if she too suspected the tragic events on the Russian front. Hitler prepared her midnight meal himself, leaving the company of his visitors to feed his faithful companion.



Adolf Hitler's Tragic Love Life . . .

Adolf Hitler had a long line of tragic lovers: (A) Maria (Mimi or Mitzi) Reiter was Adolf Hitler's fiancée in the late 1920s. Hitler was 36 when he dated Mimi. But Hitler ignored her for months, plunging her into depression. A scandal erupted when the 16-year-old girl tried to commit suicide by hanging herself in her despair. She is the only woman known to have had an intimate relationship with Hitler who survived the war, dying in 1992. (B) Actress Renate Mueller, 29, met Hitler when he was 37. Tragically, she jumped out of a window in Berlin and died. (C) Geli Raubal. In 1928 Hitler asked his half-sister, Angela Raubal, to be his housekeeper. She agreed and arrived with her daughter, Geli Raubal, 20. Hitler, 40 by now, became infatuated with Geli. Rumors spread that he was having an affair with his niece. The couple lived together in a stormy relationship for over two years. They accused each other of cheating. Geli was concerned about Eva Braun, a 17-year-old Hitler took for rides. For reasons that remain mysterious, Geli shot herself in the heart. (D) Englishwoman Unity Mitford. She hoped, according to popular legend, to marry Hitler and unify Germany and her beloved England. When Britain declared war against Germany in 1939, Unity was so ashamed of her country's government that she attempted suicide by shooting herself in the head. She was not instantly killed, and remained a childlike invalid, with the bullet lodged in her brain, dying in 1948. (E) Eva Braun. (F) Winifred Wagner, "the one that got away." Winifred refused two marriage proposals from Hitler. They met in 1923; Winifred, an Englishwoman, was already married to Siegfried Wagner (Richard Wagner's son), but sparks flew. Siegfried died in 1930, and by 1933 there were rumors Hitler, then 34, would marry the 26-year-old widow. (Hitler girlfriends not pictured include Jenny Haug, Suzi Liptauer and others.)

A BIT OF A PRUDE

And as for mistresses? If there was ever a man for whom physical love of women was unimportant, it was Hitler.

He never spoke of women. He had a horror of those barrack-room stories of which so many small-minded men are so fond. I would say, in fact, that he was a prude. Prudish in his feelings.

However, he did admire feminine beauty. One day he flew off the handle because his adjutant had not gotten the address of a young woman, an extraordinarily beautiful and radiant girl, who had hurled herself at his automobile to acclaim him. It was not that he wanted to make a rendezvous with her, as a hundred men would have done, but he had wanted to send her a bunch of flowers.

Feminine company pleased him. I knew Siegried von Weldseck, the prettiest young woman in the Reich: tall, clear-eyed, wonderfully soft skin, petite physical features. Everyone was crazy about her. I spent the last few beautiful hours of the atrocious war with her when, in my sector of the Oder River front, she came to search for a bundle of letters that her friend the Fuehrer had sent her. Their relationship consisted mostly, as she told me herself, of her going to visit him every Tuesday—and not alone—to listen to some enchanting music.

Hitler did not talk much about his success with women. Millions of women—and not all German—had been in love with him. An entire closet was filled with letters from women who had begged him to father a child with them. He did not even flirt. A terrible fatefulness marked his sundry love affairs.

LOVE LETTERS FROM HITLER

He had begun with an innocent love. The heroine was named Stephanie. He was 16 years old. Every evening he installed himself on the bridge at Linz to see her pass by. Well, never, in all the months he carried out this maneuver, did he dare say a word to her; it was unthinkable—he was too timid, as timid as an altar boy. He pined away for two years, loving his Stephanie from afar. He designed in his sketchbook the palace, Wagnerian of course, where in his imagination they would live happily ever after. He wrote to her from Vienna, delirious letters in nervous, scratchy handwriting. But the signature was illegible, and there was no return address.

"It's true, I remember, said Stephanie. But it was all so long ago. Fifty years. Yes, I received the letters you're speaking of. So you mean, those were letters from Hitler?"

It was Stephanie who spoke thus in the mid-1950s. Her lover of yesteryear had never dared introduce himself to her. She had married. She was living in Vienna, 67, the widow of a lieutenant colonel. That was Hitler's first love. At the age of 20, entirely absorbed in this mute love affair, Hitler was still a virgin. That is a fact. It's true, strictly true.[2]

Of course, people have told imbecilic tales about Hitler's amours with Viennese prostitutes, with Jewesses and also about the syphilis of which these ladies made Hitler a present. These are lies. In all Hitler's youth there was only one love—his love for Stephanie. And he never said a single word to her.

If the affair with Stephanie went nowhere, all Hitler's other love affairs led only to catastrophes.

TRAGIC AFFAIRS

Not one of the women he clasped in his arms—this man who was certainly the most beloved in Europe—ended the romance without some horrifying tragedy. The first attempted suicide in a hotel room.[3] After he ended the relationship she hanged herself but was cut down in time and lived. Nor was it quite the end of her relationship with Hitler; they would see each other twice more—the second time at the Berghof (Hitler's chalet complex near Berchtesgaden) in 1937 or perhaps later.

The second, Geli, killed herself in his room in Munich, using his own revolver.[4] Hitler was mad with grief. For three days he paced back and forth in his small Bavarian apartment, ready to kill himself. The memory of Geli never left him. Geli was everywhere. He kept a bust of her, which always had fresh flowers in front of it.

The third was Eva Braun, the woman about whom they have woven so many fantastic legends, often ridiculous, sometimes grotesque. There again, I was a witness. I knew all about her. She was a young employee in Munich of Hitler's best photographer, Hoffmann,[5] who was a very good friend of mine too. She was mad about the handsome Adolf, although he was badly dressed at that time, in his frightful light colored gabardine coat, always rumpled, the lock of hair falling over his forehead like a dead bird's tail, his rather large nose supported by his little toothbrush mustache. But the pretty Eva loved him madly.

"Unity followed Adolf Hitler everywhere. When he passed through the crowd on his way to the podium, she was there, radiant, transfigured. Each time, a tender smile would illuminate Hitler's rude visage."

She tried to trick him into kissing her. One Christmas Eve night she convinced her boss, Hoffmann, to telephone Hitler and invite him to join their party. He went out seldom. Even Christmas Eve he normally spent alone in his two-room apartment. But this time he ended up allowing himself to be convinced, and came. Just when, without noticing it, he walked under the mistletoe, the beautiful Eva, who had been waiting for that moment, threw her arms around him and kissed him, in accordance with the old custom. Hitler stood stock-still, blushed like a schoolboy, turned on his heel, grabbed his gabardine coat from the coat rack, and dashed into the street. As I have said, with women he was incredibly timid.

A single kiss had put to flight the man who would, 10 years later, put the whole world to flight.

But the matter did not end there. Poor Eva was as much in love as ever. Then tragedy again stepped in. When she realized that her beloved Adolf was completely unattainable, she too took a little revolver, and discharged it straight at her heart.

Most people are unaware of this suicide attempt. But 10 years before killing herself in Berlin in 1945, next to Hitler, Eva Braun had already tried, for her unrequited love of him, to kill herself a first time in Munich. After the two previous cadavers, this was extremely frightening to Hitler. Eva did not die. Hitler wanted to know whether it had been a real attempt at suicide, or simply a bit of play-acting to impress him.

The report of the professor at the University of Munich who, at Hitler's request, examined her, was categorical: Eva had failed to kill herself by only a few millimeters. She had indeed been completely in love with him, so much so that she preferred death to being unable to devote herself heart and soul to her beloved. It was from that moment that Eva entered Hitler's life. Oh, very discreetly. They were never known to have been alone together.

She was invited to Berchtesgaden, but always in the company of other young women who were with Hitler's associates. They sat in the sun on the terrace, facing the gray, blue and white Alps; there has never been a friendship (for it was, above all else, a friendship) more reserved than this love affair.

In his life, women were always a flash of beauty among the labors of the political life that was *everything* to him. And still the shadows of death darkened the fugitive lights of the

BELGIAN WAFFEN SS GEN. LEON DEGRELLE was an individual of exceptional intellect, dedicated to Western Culture. He fought not only for his country but for the survival of Christian Europe, preventing the continent from being inundated by Stalin's savage hordes. What Degrelle has to say, as an eyewitness to some of the key events in the history of the 20th century, is vastly important within the historical and factual context of his time and has great relevance to the continuing struggle today for the survival of civilization as we know it.

This latest series of the valuable works of Gen. Degrelle has been translated by ***MARGARET HUFFSTICKLER***, a longtime European-American rights activist, musical performer and linguist fluent in several European languages including Portuguese and Spanish.

EPIC: The Story of the Waffen SS

Narrated by the legendary Waffen SS Gen. Leon Degrelle

This video gives a complete historical background leading up to WWII. This is the story of the incredible and almost unknown (in the U.S.) fighting force. We learn how and why it was started, the non-German, European men who joined this elite army of 1 million volunteers to fight communism and its many victories won against stiff odds. A documentary that will enlighten and astound you. English voice-over. #117, VHS, color, 90 minutes, ***$22.95*** minus 10% for TBR subscribers. Call 1-877-773-9077 to charge a copy to Visa or MC. Send payment via mail using the form on page 64.

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The First "Lady Di" – 'So Very Nice; So Very Nazi'

Above are shown Unity (left) and Lady Diana Mosley (nee Mitford), two of the well-known Mitford sisters, two of whom were Fascists, one a Communist and the other three "something in between." In this photo taken in September 1937 at the Nuremberg Party Rally, Unity and Diana are surrounded by a dozen or so German SS soldiers who are pleased as punch to be photographed with the attractive English fascists. In 1936, Diana married Sir Oswald Mosley, founder of the British Union of Fascists. Hitler was the best man and the ceremony took place in Josef Goebbels's home in Berlin. Both Lady Diana and Sir Oswald were jailed in Pentonville Prison in North London by British authorities during WWII after being deemed "threats to the state." They were released in 1943, but kept under close watch. Hitler had once called Lady Diana "the perfect Aryan

women's faces on which his gaze rested. For they were not finished yet with the revolver bullets. Another feminine shot would ring out under Hitler's balcony, the first day of World War II.

This time, it was an Englishwoman who tried to kill herself. She was a marvelous girl.

I knew her well and admired her, as well as her sisters, one of whom was the wife of Oswald Mosley, the leader of the English fascists.[6]

They were all beautiful, but Unity Mitford was like a Greek goddess: slender, blond, the perfect "Germanic" type.

She had imagined that Hitler and she incarnated the Anglo-German alliance of which Hitler had always dreamed; he spoke of it in fact just a few days before his death. Unity followed Hitler everywhere. When he passed through the crowd on his way to the podium, she was there, radiant, transfigured. Each time, a tender smile would illuminate Hitler's rude visage, for a brief moment. For if Hitler admired, if his eyes caressed tenderly, the stunning face of Unity, especially at the Wagner opera house in Bayreuth, the idyll was always limited to that. Hitler was then on the eve of the war, and the golden hair of Unity could hardly be his exclusive preoccupation.

But, for Unity, Hitler was everything. When on September 3, 1939, the war with England erupted, and Unity realized her love was hopeless, she slipped underneath the huge rose bushes that flowered beneath Hitler's office and pulled her revolver out of her purse. The bullet wounded her grievously

in the head but did not kill her.[7]

Then something absolutely extraordinary happened. After Hitler had placed Unity in the hands of the very best surgeons in Germany, who saved her life (every day, in the midst of his war with Poland, he had roses sent to her), he organized her return to Great Britain. Now it was the winter of 1939, and already the major countries on the continent had entered the conflict. Hitler arranged for a special train to transport the wounded girl via Switzerland all the way across France to Dunkirk, whence a boat, escorted and protected by the German Luftwaffe, delivered her to her homeland.

Nothing helped. Unity lived on through the war racked with pain. She died three years exactly after the body of Hitler had disappeared in the blaze in the garden of the chancellery, on April 30, 1948. From 1940 on there remained only Eva, although her role remained quite modest.

I say that because I spent up to a week at a time with Hitler at his general quarters during these years. Eva Braun did not come there once. For that matter, not a single woman, whoever she might be, shared Hitler's intimacy during the four years he spent cloistered there in his fortresses behind the lines.[8]

"Millions of women—and not all German—had been in love with him. An entire closet was filled with letters from women who wanted him to father a child with them."

Eva wrote. Eva telephoned every evening around 10 o'clock. That was the limit of their slow-motion love, as discreet as it was romantic. Only the end of the war brought its denouement. When Eva realized that all was lost, that the man she loved above all else was going to die, she took a plane to Berlin, throwing herself into the furnace that it had become in those last days, to be able to die at his side.

It was then, on the last day of his life, to honor in her the courage of the German woman and the sacrifice of the lover who preferred to die rather than survive the one she loved, Hitler married her. Before that he had not married, because his wife—his only wife—was Germany.[9]

On the day he left Germany forever, he married Eva. It was a true homage. And it was tragic to the very end. When, beside the body of Hitler, bathed in burning gasoline, Eva's body began to sizzle, her head and torso suddenly sat up. There was a terror-stricken moment. Then it lay back down in the flames beside him. Thus was consumed the last love of Adolf Hitler. ❖

ENDNOTES:

[1]Charles De Gaulle, a superb writer and orator, had a press conference habit that astounded reporters: he would take all their questions at once, then say *bon* ("all right"), and give a speech covering everything.—Ed.

[2]Degrelle's claim that Hitler was still a virgin in 1909 harmonizes with all reliable information we have on Hitler, including that of his close teenage friend August Kubizek (1888-1956), who wrote the fascinating, revealing and trustworthy memoir in 1953, *Adolf Hitler, mein Jugendfreund,* published in English as *The Young Hitler I Knew* (available on Amazon). Kubizek, apolitical but fascinated by music, and a future conductor, never renounced his deep friendship in youth with the future leader, even after World War II.

[3]This was Maria, or Mitzi (called by Hitler "Miezel," pronounced "MEET-sell") Reiter, a girl he met in Berchtesgaden in 1929.

[4]Full name: Angelika Raubal; she was his half-niece—the daughter of his half-sister, Angela Raubal (nee Hitler, later Hammitzsch; she kept house for Hitler at Haus Wachenberg, later the Berghof, for a time).

[5]Heinrich Hoffmann (1885-1957) joined the National Socialist Party in Munich near its inception in 1920, and snapped over 2 million photographs of Hitler until his death in 1945. Many of the most famous Hitler photographs, which became official portraits, stamps and book covers, came from Evan Braun's former employer.

[6]Baronet Sir Oswald Mosley (1896-1980), a former Conservative and then Labour member of the British Parliament, fought very bravely in World War I, then battled politically from 1920-1966 for a peaceful, populist, nationalist Britain and against Third World immigration. Churchill interned him from 1940 to 1945 during World War II. A very handsome man, and a graduate of Sandhurst Military Academy, he was surrounded throughout the 1930s by beautiful female supporters, as Degrelle noted in an earlier chapter. The Honorable Diana Mitford, sister to the Honorable Unity Mitford mentioned later in the main text, became Sir Oswald's mistress in 1932; she had left her husband, the future baron of Moyne (Ireland), Bryan Guinness of the famous brewing empire, when Mosley founded the British Union of Fascists. In 1936 she became his wife. She and Sir Oswald were close friends with the greatest names in British society, including King Edward VIII, the novelist Evelyn Waugh, the future Labour Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and the brilliant military theorist J.F.C. Fuller.

[7]It is statistically extraordinary that these suicidal women all shot themselves; modern women in America almost always take sleeping pills; it is men who rather masculinely, and bloodily, shoot themselves. Conceived in 1913, by all reckoning, in the town of Swastika, Ontario, by her right-wing father, the baron of Redesdale, and his wife, Sydney Bowles, Unity shot herself in grief in the legendary English Garden in Munich at age 25. She never recovered entirely, and died on a family island of meningitis in 1948, the bullet still in her brain. One of her five other sisters, Jessica Mitford (1917-1996), was the red sheep of the family; the Dishonorable Jessica married Winston Churchill's "red nephew" Esmond Romilly, then fighting Franco in Spain, moved with him in 1939 to the United States, was widowed when he was shot down while bombing Germany, then married an American Jewish "civil rights lawyer" named Treuhaft and joined the Communist Party USA. In 1953 she and he were hauled up before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). In 1961, while "freedom riding" and supporting Martin Luther King, she was besieged in a church in Alabama by the Ku Klux Klan. She later was close friends with the poet Maya Angelou. In 1963, however, she wrote a very important and useful expose of fraud and rip-offs in the American funeral industry, *The American Way of Death,* which led to much-needed reforms. She uttered the famous witticism, after seeing the pyramids in Egypt, "Now there is a society where the funeral industry got completely out of control."

[8]Hitler had headquarters in France, East Prussia and Ukraine.

[9]Hitler also married her out of respect for Eva's parents; she thus entered history as his wife, "an honest woman," not his mistress.

In the Next Installment of Leon Degrelle's *My Revolutionary Life* . . .

IN THE NEXT CHAPTER, Degrelle recounts Hitler's achievements, mostly ignored by the world public: winning working-class people across Europe from Marxism back to love of race and country; promoting the best and the brightest, such as Rommel and Guderian, not just aristocrats, to win his blitzkriegs; and creating in the Waffen-SS an unparalleled pan-European army—an "aristocracy of heroes."

John Wesley Hardin: Fugitive from Injustice

While more famous gunfighters, like "Wild Bill" Hickok get the headlines, it was John Wesley Hardin, shown above, who was actually the most dangerous gun in the Old West. Hickok, for instance, was "credited" with killing 15 men, more than one of them unarmed. By the time Hardin was 25, it was claimed he had killed 42 men. Almost half of those were heavily armed federal agents, bounty hunters and law officers sent to bring him in.

WHO WAS JOHN WESLEY HARDIN? Was he the greatest "shootist" of the Old West? And why has he been vilified, blackballed and slighted?

BY GARY LEE YARBROUGH

If one were to ask the average American to name a few of the most notorious Old West gunfighters, most would come up with "Wild Bill" Hickok, Wyatt Earp or Billy the "Kid." Occasionally one might hear Clay Allison, "Doc" Holliday or even Johnny Ringo. Rarely, however, would John Wesley "Little Arkansas" Hardin, the deadliest and most successful gunfighter of them all, be mentioned.

The reason Wes Hardin's name is unfamiliar to most of us today is because Wes was unabashedly politically incorrect. The spin-doctors, therefore, relegated Wes to the Orwellian "memory hole" and opted to extol other less qualified characters as the preeminent gunfighters of Old West fame (notably Hickok and Earp) many of whom have figured prominently in movies or had entire TV series devoted to them. Hardin, or a mythological version of the real-life man (often with new myths added), has appeared briefly in several movies and TV shows, and was sung about by Bob Dylan (under the name of Harding).

Also a small, independent movie was produced in 1974 called "John Wesley Hardin—A Western," starring Mike Baccaro, produced and directed by Frank Jolley. This was later re-edited as "The Young'un—A Story of John Wesley Hardin" and appeared in the Independent Feature Film Market at the Angelica Theater in New York City. It is available on the Internet.

But otherwise John Wesley Hardin has received little media play.

James Butler Hickok, aka "Wild Bill," in reliable, published accounts, is credited with no more than 15 kills. Of that number, more than a few were of unarmed men. In fact the

first three men Hickok killed were all unarmed. The first man was shot and killed through a curtain partition because Hickok was terrified to face him. He had tormented Hickok for months about his feminine features and called Hickok a hermaphrodite on numerous occasions.

Wyatt Earp killed less than 10 men. Contrary to Hollywood's version of the Wyatt Earp saga, there is only one body in Dodge City's Boothill Cemetery that is attributed to Wyatt Earp's six-gun. Earp was a con man and horse thief, running a protection racket in the town where he was sheriff. There was evidence to suggest that the Earps and Doc Holliday were the actual stagecoach robbers in Tombstone, Arizona. Earp was convicted of claim-jumping in Eagle City, Idaho in 1880 and later arrested in Los Angeles for fleecing J.Y. Patterson out of $25,000 in a bunko scam.

The total body count of Hickok, Earp and Billy the Kid combined does not top John Wesley Hardin's confirmed 42 kills. Contrary to the historical claim that "John Wesley Hardin was so mean, he once shot a man just for snoring," Hardin stated, "I never killed a man wantonly or in cold blood." Neither Hickok nor Earp could make that claim. In defense of this accusation Wes Hardin warned, "It is never wise to accept the word of a stranger or the newspapers."

"John Wesley Hardin had no respect for and gave no quarter to anyone seeking his arrest. Of the 42 confirmed kills attributed to Wes, more than half served in a law enforcement capacity."

John Wesley Hardin was a rebel with a cause and a valiant defender of the South. The second son of James G. Hardin, a teacher and circuit riding Methodist preacher, John's mother, Elizabeth, was also a teacher. And yet his detractors claim that Wes Hardin was illiterate. This is highly unlikely.

John Wesley was born on May 26, 1853, in Bonham, Fannin Co., Texas and named after the founder of the Methodist Church. His grandfather, Benjamin Hardin, was a member of the Texas Congress before the first Union. John Wesley's great uncle, Augustine Hardin, was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Hardin County, Texas is named after another great uncle, Judge William Hardin. The Hardin family was as big as Texas and prominent in Texan history.

Wes Hardin's first brush with the law came when he was only 14. A schoolhouse bully by the name of Charles Slotter had sullied the name of a girl Wes was sweet on, by writing disparaging remarks about her on the wall of the outhouse and blaming Wes for the deed. When Wes confronted the culprit, a fight ensued. The bully was severely stabbed with a knife. Wes was arrested, charged, tried and acquitted of this incident. The judge and jury praised Wes and claimed the bully got what he had coming to him.

In contrast to Hardin, who respected women, Hickok once kicked a woman in the face because she jilted him. Phil Coe, a Texan who witnessed the deed, soundly beat Hickok to a bloody pulp and was later murdered by Hickok in the streets of Abilene.

Wes Hardin killed his first man at the age of fifteen. A huge ex-slave named Mage touted that he could whip any two white men in a wrestling match. When beaten by Joe and Wes Hardin, Mage became vengeful and stated he would kill Wes when he saw him again; Wes went home and armed himself. On the following day Mage confronted Wes on the road. Mage was carrying a club and tried to pull Wes from his horse. When the horse shied and reared, Wes shot Mage twice. Incredibly, the huge black man continued to grab for Wes. Four shots later Mage still did not go down, but Wes was able to ride away and return with help for the injured assailant. Mage survived for two days and claimed that Wes was a liar and had murdered him.

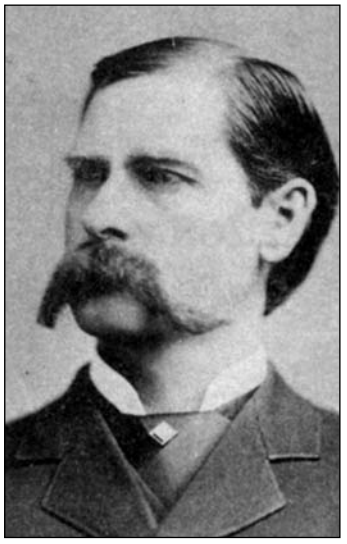
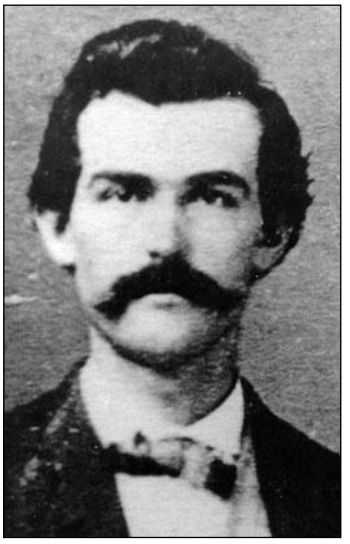
This incident of November 1868 was during the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. For a white man to be tried anywhere in the South for the death of a black man meant certain conviction to prison or hanging. Wes Hardin understood the reality, stating:

> All the courts were then conducted by bureau agents and renegades who were the inveterate enemies of the South and administered a code of justice to suit every case in gross injustice to Southern people. To be tried at that time for killing a Negro meant certain death at the hands of a court backed by Northern bayonets. Thus, willingly, I became a fugitive, not from justice, be it known, but from injustice and misrule of the people who had subjugated the South.

Hardin 's father had this to say in a letter to one Charles Morgan, "Not until the courts of Texas are again halls of true and impartial justice will I encourage my son to stand himself before their judgment." Thus began John Wesley Hardin's career as an outlaw and gunfighter. By Wes Hardin's reasoning, if the Yankees' rule was to be the law in Texas, then his only choice was to be an outlaw.

Texas was occupied by Union soldiers and the State Police appointed by Governor Edmund Davis, himself an appointee of the Northern aggressors. The State Police was composed of carpetbaggers and scalawags from the North, half the force consisted of freed Negroes. According to Wes: "Instead of protecting life, liberty and property, they frequently destroyed it." Wes made a vow to never be taken at the point of a gun.

After the death of Mage, a posse of three Union soldiers spotted Wes and gave chase. Wes outran them and set up a hasty ambush. When the soldiers entered the trap, Wes killed

FAST GUNS OF THE WILD WEST

Above are pictured four of the most infamous gunslingers in American history. Left to right above: Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok. **Earp**, before becoming marshal of Tombstone, Arizona, was a part-time lawman, maintenance worker and vagrant in Wichita, Kansas. It was in the lawless Dodge City that Earp, Holliday and Masterson met, Masterson being a deputy there along with Earp. **Holliday** occasionally hung out the apothecary sign, but was mostly a gambler and professional card dealer with a bad temper. **Masterson** was a renowned hunter, hired to shoot buffalo—tens of thousands of them. He is reputed to have been an amazingly accurate shot with pistol or rifle and survived the Indian siege of 'Dobe Walls. While hiding behind a curtain, **William Hickok**, far right, shot a man because the man had teased Hickok about his feminine features. While the movies and museums may be dedicated to this collection of "dead eyes," John Wesley Hardin surpassed them all for real, man-to-man gunfighting.

two of them point blank with a shotgun; the third, a Negro, fled on horseback. Wes chased him and jokingly demanded, "Halt, in the name of the Confederacy." The Negro snapped a shot at Wes and then Wes shot him for his effort.

John Wesley Hardin had no respect for and gave no quarter to anyone seeking his arrest. Of the 42 confirmed kills attributed to Wes, more than half served in a law enforcement capacity: soldiers, posse members, state police, Texas Rangers and Pinkerton detectives. Seven of these were Negroes. Wes killed two other Negroes, a rapist and a rioter, two Indians and seven Mexican banditos. Five of the Mexicans he killed at one time, on horseback, in a charge that Quantrill's Raiders would have envied.

Following the deaths of Mage and the three-man posse, Wes Hardin tried to avoid any more bloodshed and went to live with relatives in Navarro Co., Texas. There he taught school until he was informed that the authorities were notified of his whereabouts. Again, seeking to avoid trouble and his arrest, Wes joined friends on a cattle drive up the Chisholm Trail to its northern most point, Abilene, Kansas, where the marshal was none other than the legendary Wild Bill Hickok.

Hickok was widely known for hatred and mistreatment of Texans. However, Wes intended to make his acquaintance. News of Hardin's arrival preceded him up the Chisholm Trail. It was on this drive that Wes killed the five Mexicans at the Arkansas River crossing. Word of this incident worried Hickok, as it takes a bit of skill to kill five men in open, armed combat. When the two gunfighters eventually crossed paths in an Abilene saloon Hardin tried to goad Hickok into a gun fight by telling him that he heard that Wild Bill was a "Texan-hating Yankee son-of-a-bitch" and that the world would be better off without him, adding that Wild Bill "preferred killing Texans to Mexicans and niggers."

Hickok, aware of Hardin's intent, responded saying, "Folks will believe what they want to believe," and offered to buy Hardin a drink.

The ordinance banning the wearing of firearms within city limits was not strictly enforced. The law was applied arbitrarily as a means to levy and collect fines from people who could be intimidated into doing so. Over a few left-handed drinks Bill and Wes became friendly toward one another—as much as two gunslingers could be friends anyway.

Hardin's cousin Joe Clements had been arrested by one of Hickok's deputies and Wes asked Hickok to release him. Hickok said he would. Before retiring for the evening, Hickok asked Wes to help keep the rowdy Texas cattle hands in line while they were in Abilene; to this Wes agreed. But when Hickok said, "You might also do me a favor by not wearing them guns in town," Hardin turned and walked away.

The following day while making his rounds, Hickok approached the Bull's Head Saloon, the Texans' favorite hangout. Hickok noticed a cowboy amble inside. A moment later Hardin walked out, dressed to the nines and packing

twin .44-caliber Colts on his hips. The windows and doors of the saloon immediately filled with grinning Texan faces. Hickok, also dressed to the nines, hailed Hardin a little distance from the saloon. "I thought we had an understanding about them pistols, 'Little Arkansas'?" ("Little Arkansas" was a nickname given to Wes after he killed the five Mexicans at the river crossing.)

Hickok's deputy moved behind Wes, leveling a double-barrel shotgun at Wes's back. Hardin remarked that he was on his way out of town. Appeased, Hickok turned to leave.

A loud "rebel yell" erupted from the Bull's Head Saloon. Startled, Hickok swung around and pulled a Navy Colt. Hardin, distracted by the yell also, looked back at Hickok to find himself looking into the barrel of a gun. Hickok told Hardin to hand over his guns butt first. Wes drew his guns and held them out butt first, but placed his index fingers in both trigger guards and rolled and cocked his pistols in a flash and stuck them in Hickok's face. A roar of cheers came from the Bull's Head patrons, as Hardin told Hickok to drop the Navy Colt. Naturally, Hickok refused. The two gunfighters were in a Mexican standoff. Hickok told Hardin to holster his guns and leave town. Wes told Hickok he was not going to allow Hickok to shoot him in the back. Hickok put his gun away.

The Texans yelled for Hardin to "kill the son-of-a-bitch." But Hardin holstered his guns and calmly walked away. This occurred in November 1871 when John Wesley Hardin was only 18 years old. Hickok would later become an alcoholic and opium addict, going blind from gonorrhea.

In August of 1872 Wes Hardin killed a police officer and wounded another after an attempt to arrest Wes for the reward money offered on him. One year later, Sheriff Charles Webb tried to back shoot Wes after offering to buy Wes a drink. When Wes turned to enter the saloon, Webb pulled his gun and fired one round, which grazed Hardin's ribs. Hardin spun and killed Webb.

The decade of the 1870s was a time of great turbulence and violence in the Southwest and especially in Texas. Under Reconstruction law, Yankee, Negro and mob rule plagued the land. John Wesley and friends openly opposed black, mob rule and tyranny in general. Wes later wrote, "In putting down Negro rule in Gonzales I made many friends, and made it a thing of the past for a Negro to hold office in that county." Jack Helms was sheriff of DeWitt and Gonzales counties in 1873. He was, also, a captain of a vigilante mob. Before killing Helms, Wes told him: "You have made life, liberty and property uncertain. You have been killing men long enough. I know you belong to a legalized band of murdering cowards, and have hanged and murdered better men than yourself."

Eventually a mob took Hardin's family and relatives hostage, including his wife, Jane, and newborn daughter, Molly, forcing Wes to leave Texas. He fled to Florida, where he was later reunited with Jane, who gave birth to their second child, John W. Hardin Jr.

In 1874 Hardin's brother Joe, a lawyer, was lynched by a mob. Their parents and his younger brother, Jefferson Davis Hardin, moved to Navarro County, Texas. Wes was eventually captured in Florida in 1878, 10 years after the killing of Mage. He was extradited to Gonzales, Texas, to stand trial for killing the back-shooting sheriff, Charles Webb. At that time in Texas a man accused of murder could not testify on his own behalf. Hardin's witnesses were either dead or wanted themselves by the authorities. The best defense Wes had was a witness for the prosecution who testified that Webb had fired first, then fired again just as Hardin's bullet struck him. It was not known if Wes had actually killed Webb, since others had riddled Webb with bullets as he fell to the boardwalk.

"Between escape attempts, bull-whippings and isolation, Wes studied algebra, geometry, history and theology. Prison informants and a ball and chain made it impossible to escape, so Wes became a model prisoner."

The presiding judge was prejudiced because John's older brother Joe had beaten him in a land dispute years before. Five of the jurors were participants in the mob lynching of Joe Hardin. Wes was sentenced to 25 years in prison; he was 26 years old.

In the Texas State Prison at Huntsville John Wesley read constantly. Between escape attempts, bull-whippings and isolation, Wes studied algebra, geometry, history and theology. Since prison informants and a ball and chain made it impossible to escape, Wes became a model prisoner. He was superintendent of Sunday school and president of the debating society. Wes became interested in and studied law. After 15 years, nine months and 12 days John Wesley Hardin was pardoned. He passed the Texas State Bar exam and opened a law office in El Paso, Texas. His devoted wife died one year prior to his release from prison.

Wes was murdered on August 19, 1895, by Sheriff John Selman, who walked into the Acme Saloon and shot Wes in the back of the head as he was rolling dice. Selman was charged with murder but was acquitted and he resumed his duties as an officer of the law. Several months later Selman was killed in a gunfight with a United States deputy marshal.

John Wesley Hardin's record and character must not be blackballed and slighted in truth. He was a just and honest man in an unjust and corrupted land. Though Hardin was an outlaw rebel, he never stole a penny in his life, nor wronged anyone who was not trying to wrong him. It is not difficult to understand why Hardin's true-life story is suppressed, however, nor why Hickok and Earp's stories have been romanticized

THEY WERE WHITE, SO THEY DON'T MATTER?

IF YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS CASE, and do not want to read about it again, I'd understand. The crime I am about to describe is one of the most heinous hate crimes ever committed on American soil. Yet I am betting that a goodly number of you reading this have not heard about it.

One evening in January this year, Christopher Newsom and Channon Christian were out on a date. Both attended the University of Tennessee. They were a cute couple and had a genuine affection for one another. But things would go tragically wrong that night: they were carjacked and kidnapped by five thugs.

CHANNON & CHRISTOPHER

The ordeal did not end there. The couple was forced to endure acts upon their persons which can only be accurately described as barbarically "tribal"—the kind of brutality you might expect to see in Rwanda or Darfur—but certainly not in the heartland of America from the products of our great democracy.

But unfortunately, there's more. The couple was made to watch as horrific acts were perpetrated on each other. Christopher was mutilated while still alive and brutally murdered. Channon was raped for days, tortured, mutilated while still alive, murdered, dismembered and the pieces of her body thrown away.

No human being should have to endure what Channon and Christopher did. And no parent should have to forever relive in the mind the last terrible moments of their precious child.

But never fear, for here in America we have a media that just loves to expose "hate" crimes to ensure things like this never happen again. Therefor, one would expect that the paid prostitutes of the press would be salivating over this story as they did for literally years over the murder of James Byrd, a black man viciously dragged behind a truck and killed by a group of violent whites.

But guess what? The mainstream media isn't touching the story of the hate crimes perpetrated against Channon and Christopher. And prosecutors aren't using the words "hate crime" either.

Now, since you're smart, you've already surmised there might be a problem with this case. You would be right. Turns out the victims of this unbelievably animalistic hate crime were white and the torturing, raping, murdering criminals were not. I believe if the perpetrators of the crime had been white, and the victims black—or any other minority—you would most assuredly have seen this story plastered over every news medium in America for six straight months.

So, instead of reporting this story as it deserves to be reported—truthfully—the mainstream "news" media chose instead to focus on earthshaking stories such as Katie Couric's new boyfriend, the post-mortem custody struggles of Anna Nicole Smith and the firing of "shock jock" Don Imus. Additionally, by not reporting on minority-on-white crime, the news media commits a crime itself, inflaming ethnic sentiment to violence and public disturbance by convincing minority readers and viewers that only whites commit hate crimes.

I to this day have not heard a word about the hate crimes committed against Channon and Christopher on any news medium except the internet. Thank goodness for the Internet.

Christopher was honored with a marble plaque, fittingly placed at his high school baseball field in North Knox County, Tennessee. It reads: "In memory of Chris Newsom. 1983 to 2007. Safe at Home." Others want to honor and remember Channon and Christopher too.

We honor them by telling you how they died and that they were important human beings. Channon and Christopher deserve a more fitting memorial than a media whitewash. And to those in the news media who believe it's their right to censor such stories for "our own good," please let us judge that for ourselves. ❖

—PAUL T. ANGEL

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and exaggerated. Both were Northerners from Illinois. Both were loyal to the Union and both were officers of the "law," which was corrupt and unjust. The truth is, the North must have been hard-pressed for heroes to glorify these two contemptible wretches.

John Wesley Hardin was the king of pistoleros, a true hero. In his own words: "I was always a child of nature, her ways and moods were my study. The man who does not exercise the first law of nature—that of self-preservation—is not worthy of living and breathing the breath of life." ❖

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GARY LEE YARBROUGH is a member of the Bruders Schweigen, or the "Order." Yarbrough married a girl from the Hardin clan. Convicted of burglary and accused of shooting at federal agents who attacked the Order's headquarters, he was incarcerated. While in prison he was brutally assaulted and crippled by federal guards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patton's Driver

The July-August 2006 TBR refers to Patton's driver who returned to the United States before the accident. I worked at Douglas Aircraft Co. in Long Beach, California, from August 1950 to Dec. 23, 1983, when I retired. Nearly all that time I was with 702 Maintenance Department. For nearly all of the last year before I retired, Charlie Howland, an electrician, worked with me. He told me he had been Gen. Patton's driver. I believe he was telling the truth. He was not the type that would lie about it. As to the substitute driver, the leaders probably did not want him to be identified. Howland may no longer be alive, as this was 22 years ago.

C. V. KAISER
Oregon

(You may well be right about Charlie Howland having been one of Patton's drivers at one time. But Pvt. Horace Woodring, 77, was chauffeuring Gen. George Patton through the German countryside when a crash caused injuries that led to Patton's death. Woodring died Nov. 2, 2003, at a Detroit hospital. On Dec. 9, 1945, Woodring was behind the wheel when a 2 1⁄2-ton Army truck collided with Patton's limousine. Patton suffered a broken neck and was paralyzed. He died 12 days later.—Ed.)

Aloha from a Friend

I read your article on the 2006 TBR Conference. Your description of "friends" is exactly how I feel. I was a history major in college in Texas, but it was nothing compared to what I'm learning. Today I am a man on a mission and find it quite frustrating that most people would rather watch TV or are satisfied with "Fox." Horrors! Establishment newspapers are not enough. Regardless, I continue to learn and expose the lies of history.

S. SULLIVAN-ANDERSON
Hawaii

Hitler at Landsberg

TBR is an excellent journal. Of course, occasionally errors occur—even in the ads. In Vol. XII, No. 5, September/October 2006, on page 55, an advertisement referred to *Mein Kampf* as written by Adolf Hitler in Spandau Prison. Spandau is in Berlin. That's where Rudolf Hess was kept for so many years as a prisoner of peace. Hitler was at the Landsberg prison outside of Munich. The German government has the morals of a prostitute. Perhaps they suffer from "Stockholm syndrome" (where the victim supports his oppressor). Anyway, thanks for the excellent job your journal does. We love it.

J. W. REED
Florida

U.S. Army Civilian Employees

Regarding the story on August Kuklane by Christopher Bollyn and Helje Kaskel Bollyn, the author said Kuklane was drafted into the U.S. occupation force and was made a captain in the Army.

This does not agree with the facts. The Army did hire voluntary civilian employees who were provided with black-dyed U.S. Army uniforms, which gave the appearance of a paramilitary. They were called "Labor Service." In the early 1950s, blue-gray uniforms were issued with a plastic blue helmet with the letters "CG" (civilian guard) in front. The officers metal bars were red. Military rank was abandoned in the 1970s.

I, as a German national, served from 1953 to 1956 in Stuttgart, Germany as a driver in a guard company with the rank of corporal.

Also, according to one of the foremost Waffen-SS experts publishing today, records of Kuklane are non-existent

Is it possible Bollyn and his wife were duped by this SS "wannabe"?

G. PENZ
Canada

Unburdened

Let me compare the "holocaust" to a picture puzzle. Inside the box are the puzzle pieces; on top of the box is a picture that will guide you in putting the puzzle together. But when I tried to assemble the pieces of the holocaust puzzle and make them fit, I found that pieces were continually changed, and other key pieces were missing. The most important missing piece was documentary evidence. There were plenty of eyewitness reports, but put side by side, they contradicted each other. Anne Frank and her family were deported to Auschwitz, featured as an "extermination camp," but neither she nor any member of her family was exterminated there. When the Soviet front moved closer, they were evacuated closer back to Germany, to Bergen-Belsen, which had somehow undergone a metamorphosis from an "extermination camp" with "gas chambers" to a prison camp without gas chambers.

In spite of the fact that I could not make the pieces fit, I still believed in the holocaust, defined as 6 million Jews killed in homicidal

Larry Silverstein, 9-11 Foreknowledge & Building 7

What has happened to the Americans? They used to think of themselves as the last great carriers of the torch of freedom. How is it possible that a million or more Americans can so easily be fooled by one rotten money gangster? The two towers fell in the morning of September 11. Building No. 7 had taken no hit. There were two small fires visible on No. 7. Where did they come from? Obviously someone inside the building must have set them. Then, suddenly, late in the afternoon, the building collapses. Later Silverstein states he had the place pulled down.

From what I have seen of such demolitions, they take lots of time and planning. Building 7 was rigged long before 9-11. It is therefore obvious that:

- Silverstein had advance knowledge of the attacks;
- Silverstein committed insurance fraud.

Third parties, like all the tenants, have not sued Silverstein. This indicates that most, if not all, of the tenants must also have known about the deal. My question: Why was that man not arrested immediately, after the dust cleared?

W. KLAUS
Ontario

gas chambers.

Then one day in the 1980s, I received a form letter from the Simon Wiesenthal Center begging for a donation. As with all begging letters it listed some successes, and one failure requiring more donations. The failure was that the center was unable to keep the title and address of Willis Carto's *The Journal of Historical Review* out of the library reference work for journals and periodicals.

That very day I marched down to my local library, looked up the journal, and ordered a copy. The blinders fell from my eyes. There were no gas chambers. The picture on the holocaust puzzle box was a fraud.

How did I feel? We had a very heavy wet snow that winter that bent the young pine trees almost to the ground. I went from tree to tree and shook off the snow. Just as I shook that burden off those little trees, Revisionists shook off my moral burden, which, being a native German, had bent me almost to the ground. Since then I have fought historical lies with everything at my disposal.

C.B. MILLER
Wisconsin

Dismayed

Re: TBR March/April 2006. Over the years, I have found TBR though provoking. I am dismayed by the spectacle of TBR parroting the Galileo hoax so sacred to mainstream historians. Galileo, like Kepler, had an eccentric and irascible personality. Galileo was the quintessential know-it-all, always trying to outshine everyone. Among his other braggadocios, Galileo claimed to have invented the telescope, yet it was available 20 years earlier from his countryman Giovanni Della Porta. Most egregiously, while Galileo was vigorously defending Copernicanism before the Holy Office in 1633, he knew even then that the system did not work, and that he had no substantial proof for it. He rejected Kepler's elliptical orbits. There can be no doubt that Galileo's theory of the tides was based on self-deception. Copernicus, by the way, kept a mistress, and Kepler was a dabbler in the occult.

F. KLAN
Alabama

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Reader Defends Olga's Honor

ABOUT THE ARTICLE in the September/October 2006 TBR: Whether the Russian-German actress Olga Chekhova (shown right at a theatrical performance with Adolf Hitler) was a Soviet spy may be questionable. Unquestionable, however, is the spelling of her name: Tschechowa. She lived and worked in Germany since 1921, her German language skills were impeccable, and she was well liked by the movie-going public. Tschechowa's popularity, however, did not reach half of Zarah Leander's. No one's did. This Swedish actress and songstress was the absolutely greatest movie star in Germany in the1930s and '40s, up to the end of the war in '45. Recordings of her songs became hits again in the '50s and '60s and are still available on CDs today. To call her a starlet is not just a horrendous understatement but indicates how little the author knows about the German movie world in the 1930s and '40s.

To insinuate any potential spy activity by this great artist for an enemy of Germany is simply preposterous.

Lida Baarova, Goebbels's mistress for some time during the Third Reich, was also a popular actress, playing a number of leading roles, hence not just a starlet. She did not spy for any enemy of Germany either. As a matter of fact, her Czech compatriots and many Germans were very nasty to her after World War II. She died in Salzburg in relative obscurity several years after the war.

M. BECKER
Oregon

RESPONSE FROM THE EDITOR: Thank you for your attentive reading and thoughtful feedback. Please forgive us for referring to these ladies as starlets. Nothing demeaning was intended by the use of that word. The author, as an older man, views young female entertainers as "starlets." We failed to check the dictionary definition: "a young actress who is publicized as a future star." The transliteration of her Russian name differs in different languages: in German it would be Tschechowa, in English Chekhova, with more versions in the French and Italian and so on. Olga Leonardovna Knipper-Chekhova (nee Knipper) was born on September 9, 1868, in Glasov, Russian empire, into a family of a German origin. She is also known as Olga Tschechowa and is certainly a star. We are not sure that she was not a spy. What are your sources of information? We were relying on the book we cited, but you did not cite any source.

Indeed, Zarah Leander eventually became a famous movie star. As for her possible political affiliations, we would welcome any information the readers might have. If she was not working for Allied intelligence (and of course the USSR was an ally of the United States and UK at the time), was she then simply one of the Third Reich's and Europe's favorite entertainers, without political preferences at all?

According to our information, controversial actress Lida Baarova died October 27, 2000, in Salzburg at the age of 86. Baarova was born September 7, 1914, in Prague. She studied acting at Prague's conservatory but did not finish the school. At the beginning of her film career, directors were interested mainly in her looks. More serious roles came her way in the late '30s.

During the '30s she had offers from Hollywood but chose to work in Berlin, where she had an affair with Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels. She had to leave Germany when Goebbels's wife complained to Adolf Hitler. After the war she was imprisoned for collaboration with the Nazis. She escaped from Czechoslovakia in 1948.

During her subsequent travels through Europe, Baarova played in films of various qualities and acted on stages in Germany and Austria. She retired in the '60s and wrote two volumes of memoirs.—Ed.

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